

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 12 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: 1201 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

1. **TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL.** It is the policy of this department to provide traffic direction and control at the scene of accidents or any other time that traffic movement has come to a standstill due to some past or current incident.

A. All personnel engaging in traffic control activities will wear special high visibility vests provided to each officer. Traffic officers will wear special attire that is provided to traffic safety team members.

B. Night time accidents or incidents will be supplemented by the use of flares, flashlights, or other reflectored /illuminated devices.

C. Flare and/or cone patterns will be used whenever necessary to safely affect changes in normal traffic pattern flow.

D. Whenever possible, police patrol vehicles will be situated with all emergency lights in operation to provide notice to the motoring public that a traffic officer is present and providing direction.

E. Incidents that occur requiring lengthy traffic control will be evaluated by a patrol supervisor who may consider alternative temporary traffic plan, or establish barricades and/or detour routes.

F. All new police personnel will receive the basic tenets of proper traffic control during their basic certification field training. New or updated ideas will be disseminated at Patrol briefings, as they become available. Recruit police officers will spend time with traffic safety personnel during FTEP (Field Training Evaluation Program).

2. **REPORTS REQUIRED.** The department shall respond to all reported motor vehicle accidents and conduct an investigation as required. Motor vehicle accident reports shall be submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles Division as required by RS 32:398 All fatal accidents, and accidents involving an “incapacitating injury” shall be investigated. An “incapacitating injury” is defined as an injury, other than a fatal injury, that prevents the injured party from walking, driving, or normally continuing the activities he/she was engaged in or capable of performing before the injury occurred. It includes severe lacerations, broken or distorted limbs, skull or chest injuries, abdominal injuries, loss of consciousness at the accident scene, or is physically unable to leave the accident scene without medical assistance. (DMV Traffic Accident Report Manual) These accidents shall be documented on Louisiana State Traffic Crash Report.

Alcohol or drug involved accidents, and accidents involving hazardous materials shall be investigated.

If called to the scene of a hit and run accident, officers shall conduct an investigation. Property damage accidents may be either investigated or handled by driver information exchange. In the event of an information exchange, officers will ensure that all involved drivers are properly licensed and insured, and call into dispatch the driver’s license number and vehicle plate number. Officers who respond to any accident shall determine a primary cause for the accident. If a clear primary cause violation has occurred, officers may issue a traffic citation for that violation. If a traffic accident report is not required,

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 12 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: 1201 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

officers will record enough information in their notebooks and/or citation to effectively proceed with a court presentation.

Accidents involving police vehicles that do not fall under the DMV criteria will be documented on a City Accident Report form.

3. **ACCIDENT ANALYSIS AND SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT.** The department shall collect accident data and conduct traffic accident analysis in support of our selective traffic enforcement program. The department will cooperate with the Louisiana Department of Transportation (LDOT).

A. Officers shall complete the Louisiana Traffic Crash Report for all accidents investigated. Copies will be submitted for distribution and recording to the necessary agencies, which include the Department of Motor Vehicles and LDOT.

B. Data will be analyzed to determine location, day, time, and violation type that cause or contribute to the collisions. Traffic units will utilize this data for selective enforcement, and patrol units will be given data on hazardous locations within assigned patrol districts to assist the Traffic Division in their mission.

4. **ACCIDENTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.** The department will investigate parking lot or private property accidents which involve incapacitating physical injury or when the accident appears to involve intoxication, reckless or careless conduct.

5. **INJURY/HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSES.** In accidents involving injuries, fire hazards, and/or hazardous materials, a fire department response will be requested. If there are injuries, officers will render first aid within their abilities until relieved by fire or medical personnel. If a fire exists or hazardous materials are involved, the officer will clear bystanders to a safe distance until fire personnel arrive. If it can be safely done, hazardous materials should be identified, and this information should be relayed to the fire department so they can make appropriate determinations regarding the Hazardous Material response.

6. **ALTERCATION RELATED TO ACCIDENT.** When investigating an accident involving a disturbance between those involved, the drivers shall be separated and interviewed. Appropriate enforcement action in regards to behavior involved in the traffic matter shall be at the discretion of the investigating officer, if action is not required by LRS.

7. **TOWING.** Appropriate and reasonable manpower shall be allotted for traffic control of congestion at accident scenes. Utmost consideration shall be given to the prevention of further accidents. Towing of disabled vehicles shall be alternated among the authorized towing companies unless the driver(s) express a towing preference.

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 12 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: 1201 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

8. CITATIONS. Enforcement actions subsequent to traffic accidents shall be in the form of citations issued at the scene or served on the violator after the investigation is complete.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police