
LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP # A-244

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SUBJECT: ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

**INDEX AS: ACCIDENTS
ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/13/2005

REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for Department Employees that are in an accident in a Department Vehicle.

II ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DEPARTMENT VEHICLES.

- A. When a Department vehicle is involved in an accident, the Patrol Sergeant shall be notified immediately and is responsible for assisting in the investigation along with the Georgia State Patrol. The Sergeant will then notify the employee's Captain as soon as it is practical.
- B. A copy of the accident report shall be given to the Chief Deputy as soon as possible.
- C. Photographs shall be taken of all Departmental vehicles and property involved in an accident.
- D. The above mentioned Captain shall review the investigation and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Accident Review Board. The Accident Review Board will review the accident and make a determination in accordance with policy. The Accident Review Board findings, and all related documents, will be forwarded to the Chief Deputy.

II Department Accident Review Board

Purpose: The purpose of the Accident Review Board is to assess if the operation of the Department vehicle, at the time of the accident, was in accordance with Department Policy and Training.

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- A. The Accident Review Board will be chosen at random by the Chief Deputy and will change yearly.
- B. This Board shall review all Departmental vehicle accidents.
- C. In the event an Accident Review Board Member is involved in an accident, a new member will be asked , by the Chief Deputy, to sit with the Board to review the accident.
- D. Department vehicle accidents shall be reviewed for consistency of compliance and proper operation with Department policy and training.
- E. Accident Review Board Determinations
 - 1. Preventable Accident- is one in which the driver was at fault, or where the accident could have been prevented by utilizing defensive driving techniques.
 - a. Category 1: An accident that occurred because of misjudgment of clearance, or failure to drive defensively.
 - b. Category 2: An accident that occurred because the employee was negligent and/or violated departmental rules, policies and procedures, or violated any section of the Georgia Vehicle Code, except for those violations noted in Category 3.
 - c. Category 3: An accident that occurred because the employee was under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs to any degree, or who has flagrantly, willfully, or deliberately disregarded safety.
 - 2. Non-Preventable Accidents- Is one in which the driver was not at fault, or one that could not have reasonably been prevented by use of defensive driving techniques and the circumstances of the situation.
 - 3. No-Vehicle Accident- Involves any vehicle where

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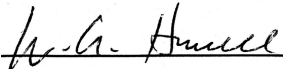
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the cause of damage was an intentional act of vandalism, such as intentionally ramming a vehicle into another, or malicious mischief as defined in the Criminal Code, is not an accident.

4. Pursuit Termination Maneuver- Damage related to the properly executed Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) maneuver, rolling road block or stationary road block in the line of duty.
- F. The Accident Review Board will meet every 90 days.
- G. The Chief Deputy shall designate a specific review date and shall notify the employee involved in an accident of the review date. The employee shall be entitled to appear before the review board if so desired.
- H. Determinations by the Accident Review Board concerning the conduct of the employee are confidential matters which may be used for subsequent remedial measures. Determinations shall be forwarded to the Chief Deputy.
- I. Upon review of the determination of the Accident Review Board, the Chief Deputy will determine the appropriate corrective/disciplinary action.

II FINDINGS OF THE ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD FORM

Members of the Accident Review Board will document their findings on the "FINDINGS OF THE ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD" Form- See Attachment A.


W. A. HARRELL
SHERIFF

7/13/2005

DATE

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ATTACHMENT "A"

FINDINGS OF ACCIDENT REVIEW BOARD

Date of Review: _____

Employee: _____

1. The Laurens County Accident Review Board was convened to review your accident # _____, involving a Department Vehicle which occurred in _____ County on _____ and has forwarded it's findings to the Chief Deputy.
2. The purpose of this board is to assess if the operation of the Department Vehicle at the time of the accident was in accordance with Department Policy and training.
3. The Accident Review Board has determined that your accident was a Pursuit Termination Maneuver.
4. The Accident Review Board has found that you did operate the vehicle in a manner consistent with Policy and training on this occasion, and no action was recommended.
5. The Accident Review Board has forwarded a copy of this finding to the Chief Deputy along with it's attached recommendations. The Chief Deputy shall make the determination to accept or reject this recommendation after consideration of all available relevant information

OFFICIALS:

MEMBER

MEMBER

MEMBER

MEMBER

MEMBER