COURSE GOAL:

The course will provide the in-service officer the minimum topics of Driver Training/Awareness required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program. This shall include; Basic Driving Principles, Defensive Driving, Legal and Moral Aspects and Maneuvering Course Exercises.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical Driver Training/Awareness for in-service officers.

DRIVER TRAINING/AWARENESS

Minimum Topics/Exercises:

1. Behind the wheel exercises to improve driving skills, judgment and decision-making
2. Class Exercises/Student Evaluations/Testing
3. Defensive driving
4. Intersection exercise(s)
5. Backing and parking exercise(s)
6. Policy, legal and moral issues
7. Vehicle Dynamics

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The in-service officer will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their Driver Training/Awareness skills and techniques.
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of psychomotor skills with each technique and exercise. This shall include:
   A. Judgment
   B. Decision Making
   C. Defensive Driving
   D. Basic Driving Principles
   E. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
   F. Vehicle Dynamics

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the in-service officer during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the in-service officer does not meet the minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION
   A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
   B. Course Objectives/Overview/Exercises, Evaluation and Testing

II. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES

II(g)
A. Weight Transfer
   1. Weight distributed between the front and rear wheels
   2. Types of weight transfer
      a. Lateral: Side to side
      b. Longitudinal: Front to rear/Rear to front
   3. Lateral transfer created when vehicle turned left/right
   4. Longitudinal transfer created when:
      a. Braking-Rear/front
      b. Accelerating-Front/rear
      c. Decelerating-Rear/front
   5. Can’t be eliminated in a moving vehicle
   6. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

B. Steering Control
   1. Seating Position
      a. Driver Comfort
      b. Efficient vehicle control
      c. Adjust mirrors
      d. Fasten safety belt and be at least 12” from air bag
      e. Wrist break over top of the steering wheel
   2. Steering method - Two hand shuffle steering
      a. Hand position at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4
      b. Hands do not leave steering wheel
      c. Maximizes steering accuracy
      d. Safer and more effective recovery
      e. Maximum vehicle control by minimizing weight transfer
      f. Minimizes air bag deployment injury
      g. Prevents the radio cord from wrapping around the steering column
   3. Steering method – Backing
      a. Body rotated to the right
      b. Right hand is placed on the right headrest
      c. Vision is directed over right shoulder
      d. Left hand on the steering wheel at the twelve o’clock position
      e. Press left leg against the bottom of the steering wheel for stability
      f. The left foot is braced on the floorboard for driver stability

C. Roadway Position
   1. Definition: The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss vehicle control while negotiating a turn
      a. AKA - Driving line
   2. Driving advantages
      a. Minimize and control weight transfer
      b. Minimize steering impute
      c. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner
      d. Smoother vehicle operation
   3. Driving points in a turn
      a. Entry
      b. Apex
      c. Exit
III. LEGAL AND MORAL ASPECTS

A. California Vehicle Codes
   1. 17001 CVC
   2. 17004 CVC
   3. 17004.7 CVC
   4. 21052 CVC
   5. 21055 CVC
   6. 21056 CVC
   7. 21057 CVC
   8. 21806 CVC
   9. 21807 CVC
  10. 22350 CVC

B. Case Law
   1. Brummett vs. County Of Sacramento
   2. Stark vs. City of Los Angeles

C. Department Policy

D. Moral Aspects

IV. DEFENSIVE DRIVING

A. Defensive Drivers
   1. Avoid collisions regardless of right of way
   2. React to hazards
   3. Maintain a professional attitude

B. Psychological Factors
   1. Overconfidence
   2. Preoccupation
   3. Self-Righteousness
   4. Ego
   5. Impatience

C. Physiological Factors
   1. Preoccupation
   2. Fatigue
   3. Alcohol/Drugs
   4. Stress
   5. Inattention
   6. Smoking

D. Avoiding Collision
   1. Space Cushion
      a. Three second rule
      b. Perception / Reaction time
      c. When stopped, see rear wheels of vehicle in front
   2. Intersections
      a. Clear left, right, then left again
      b. Don’t turn wheels until ready for turn
      c. Cover brake on stale green light
   3. Maintain a high visual horizon
4. Backing
   a. A large percentage of collisions involve Law Enforcement Vehicles
   b. Use proper backing techniques
5. Lane Changes
6. Blind spots
E. Safety Devices
   1. Safety belts
   2. Supplemental restraint System (Air bags)
F. Vehicle Dynamics
   1. Front-end swing
   2. Rear wheel cheat
   3. Oversteer
   4. Understeering

V MANEUVERING COURSE EXERCISES

A. Offset Lane Exercise
B. Steering Course Exercise
C. “T” Driveway Exercise
D. Parallel Parking Exercise
E. Bootleg Turn Exercise

VI TESTING/REMEDIATION

A. Practical application will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
B. Any student who does not receive a passing score will receive remedial training in that area. The student will be retested until he/she successfully passes.
C. Remedial training will be documented by the instructor.