



<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES</b>		NUMBER: <b>506.0</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b>	REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b>	
	TOPIC: <b>PURPOSE AND POLICY</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 61.2.2, 61.2.3		
	VLEPSC: OPR.07.05		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and reporting requirements when County-owned police vehicles or Department-leased vehicles are involved in a crash.


II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department that the sanctity of human life is of paramount importance. As such, it is vital that when County-owned police vehicles are involved in crashes, the Department has clear guidelines on the manner which crashes are investigated and documented. It is crucial to community trust that a complete, thorough investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle crash is conducted.

<b>FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>    <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	SUBJECT: <b>POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES</b>		NUMBER: <b>506.1</b>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <b>January 1, 2019</b>	REVIEW: <b>December 2022</b>	
	TOPIC: <b>DEFINITIONS</b>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 61.2.2, 61.2.3		
	VLEPSC: OPR.07.05		


I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Crash: Occurs when a County-owned or Department-leased vehicle comes into contact with another vehicle, object, or person. This does not include a Precision Immobilization Technique (General Order 505.7), Tactical Vehicle Intercept (General Order 505.9), or Vehicle Incident (General Order 505.10).
- B. Medical Treatment: Any action taken by Emergency Medical Services (EMS), personnel approved by the Fairfax County Police Department's Office of the Medical Director (OMD), or medical facility personnel to medically assess an individual or physically mend an injury (e.g. dress a wound, stitches, etc.) Access to medical treatment requires direct contact between the patient and one of the above defined competent medical authorities. Routine decontamination does not constitute medical treatment.
- C. Serious Injury: An injury which creates a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, prolonged hospitalization, impairment of the functions of any bodily organ or limb, or any injury that medical personnel deem to be potentially life-threatening.

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	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>January 1, 2019</b>	<b>REVIEW:</b> <b>December 2022</b>	
	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:</b> CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> 61.2.2, 61.2.3		
	<b>VLEPSC:</b> ADM.24.06, OPR.07.05		


I. DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The operator of a County-owned police vehicle or a Department-leased vehicle involved in any type of crash, shall, if physically able notify either the Department of Public Safety Communications Center, or an on-duty police supervisor, without delay.
  
- B. A sworn officer operating a County-owned police vehicle or Department-leased vehicle involved in any type of crash, shall, if physically able, render medical aid, when necessary, to any individual involved in the crash.
  
- C. In all County-owned police vehicle crashes or Department-leased vehicle crashes, the operator, if physically able, shall submit a memorandum detailing the circumstances surrounding the crash.

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	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:</b> CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> 41.2.6, 61.2.2		
	<b>VLEPSC:</b> OPR.07.05		


**I. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. When informed that a departmental employee is involved in a County-owned police vehicle crash or a Department-leased vehicle crash, a sworn supervisor shall respond to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the vehicle crash, unless advised otherwise by the Duty Officer or a commander.
  
- B. The responding sworn supervisor shall provide updates to the Duty Officer, the Police Liaison Commander, or the appropriate commander, when practical.
  
- C. A sworn supervisor of equal or greater rank shall investigate any crash involving a supervisor or commanding officer. If there is no equal or greater ranking officer available to respond and investigate the crash, then the duty officer or affected commander can exercise discretion to have the crash investigated by an available subordinate commander or supervisor. The review and action taken will be completed by the affected employee's normal chain of command.
  
- D. A County-owned police vehicle crash or a Department-leased vehicle crash that results in death, the potential loss of life, or serious injury to any individual shall require an oral report to the Chief of Police as soon as possible through the Duty Officer or the Police Liaison Commander. In the event the Chief of Police is unavailable, the report shall be made to the appropriate Deputy Chief.

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	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> January 1, 2019	<b>REVIEW:</b> December 2022	
	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>INVESTIGATION OF POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:</b> CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> 41.2.4, 61.2.2	<b>VLEPSC:</b> OPR.07.05	

I. POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY

- A. The Duty Officer or the appropriate commander will determine if an injury is to be designated a serious injury. This determination will be based, in part, on information from medical personnel. At the earliest opportunity, the Duty Officer or commander will notify the appropriate bureau commanders of all injuries designated serious.
- B. This General Order is intended for any County-owned police vehicle crash or Department-leased vehicle crash that occurs within the jurisdictional boundaries of Fairfax County, to include the:
- Town of Herndon
  - Town of Vienna
  - Town of Clifton
- C. Death or serious injury to any individual will be investigated and documented as follows:
1. Investigative Authority: Operation Support Bureau's Crash Reconstruction Unit and the Internal Affairs Bureau with assistance by the Major Crimes Bureau, as needed.
  2. Investigative Format: Criminal Investigation and Internal Affairs Bureau administrative investigation.
  3. Investigative Procedures: In accordance with [SOP 12-045](#).

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4. Documentation:

- Public Property (including Hit and Run): An accident report via the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS).
- Private Property (including Hit and Run): An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.
- Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.

5. Documentation Review: The commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau shall review the administrative investigation and forward the investigation to the appropriate commander. The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and action.

6. Photographs shall be taken of all injuries and the crash scene by the investigative authority and maintained within the case file.

7. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigative authority.


8. The police vehicle involved in the crash shall not be moved or tampered with, unless in an emergency or hazardous situation, without the permission of the investigative authority.

9. The collection of evidence shall be performed at the direction of the lead Operations Support Bureau's detective or their designee.

D. Medical treatment at a medical facility for any non-serious injury to any individual will be investigated and documented as follows:

1. Investigative Authority: The on-duty supervisor or above with assistance by the Crash Reconstruction Unit, as needed.

2. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the current Records Management System.

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3. Documentation:

- Public Property (including Hit and Run): An accident report via the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS).
- Private Property (including Hit and Run): An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.
- Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.

4. Documentation Review: The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.

5. Photographs shall be taken of all injuries and the crash scene by the investigative authority and maintained within the case file.

6. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigative authority.


E. Medical treatment for a non-serious injury that is provided by Emergency Medical Services personnel, personnel approved by the Fairfax County Police Department's Office of the Medical Director, or medical treatment is refused by any individual will be investigated and documented as follows:

1. Investigative Authority: The on-duty supervisor or above with assistance by the Crash Reconstruction Unit, as needed.

2. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the current Records Management System.


3. Documentation:

- Public Property (including Hit and Run): An accident report via the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS).


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- Private Property (including Hit and Run): An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.
  - Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.
4. Documentation Review: The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.
  5. Photographs shall be taken of all injuries and the crash scene by the investigative authority and maintained within the case file.
  6. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigative authority.
- F. No injuries to any individual will be investigated and documented as follows:
1. Investigative Authority: The on-duty supervisor or above with assistance by the Crash Reconstruction Unit, as needed.
  2. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the Current Records Management System.
  3. Documentation:
    - Public Property (including Hit and Run) with total property damage greater than \$1500: An accident report via the Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS).
    - Public Property (including Hit and Run) with total property damage less than \$1500: An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.
    - Private Property (including Hit and Run): An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.




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- Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.
4. Documentation Review: The on-duty supervisor shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.
  5. Photographs shall be taken of the crash scene by the investigative authority and maintained with the case file.
  6. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigative authority.

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	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> January 1, 2019	<b>REVIEW:</b> December 2022	
	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>INVESTIGATION OF POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:</b> CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> 41.2.4, 61.2.2	<b>VLEPSC:</b> OPR.07.05	


I. POLICE VEHICLE CRASHES OUTSIDE FAIRFAX COUNTY

- A. This General Order is intended for any police vehicle crash that occurs outside the jurisdictional boundaries of Fairfax County.
- B. The Duty Officer or the appropriate commander will determine if an injury is to be designated a serious injury. This determination will be based, in part, on information from medical personnel. At the earliest opportunity, the Duty Officer or commander will notify the appropriate bureau commanders of all injuries designated serious.
- C. Death, or serious injury to any will be investigated and documented as follows:
1. Investigative Authority: Internal Affairs Bureau in cooperation with the jurisdiction investigating the crash.
  2. Investigate Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the current Records Management System.
  3. Investigative Procedures: In accordance with [SOP 12-045](#).
  4. Documentation:
    - An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.
    - Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.
  5. Documentation Review: The commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau shall review the administrative investigation and forward the investigation

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to the appropriate commander. All investigative reports shall be forwarded to the commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau for appropriate review and dissemination to division and bureau commanders.


6. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigative authority.
  7. The investigative authority will respond to police vehicle crashes that occur in:
    - Prince William County
    - Arlington County
    - Loudoun County
    - City of Fairfax
    - City of Falls Church
    - City of Alexandria
    - District of Columbia
    - Prince George’s County, Maryland
    - Montgomery County, Maryland
  8. The investigative authority shall obtain copies of any documentation available from the jurisdiction investigating the crash and include all received documentation in the administrative investigation file.
- D. All other police vehicle crashes occurring outside Fairfax County will be investigated and documented as follows:
1. Investigative Authority: A supervisor or above or as assigned by the Duty Officer or commander in cooperation with the jurisdiction investigating the crash.
  2. Investigative Format: Administrative investigation and the appropriate documentation in the current Records Management System.
  3. Documentation:
    - An incident report via the Non-Reportable Accident template in the current Records Management System.

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- An Administrative Investigation via the current Internal Affairs Records Management System.
4. Documentation Review: The investigative authority shall review and forward all investigative reports to their commander for appropriate review and dissemination. The completed administrative investigation shall be forwarded to their division commander for appropriate review and action.
  5. Any video and/or audio recordings of the crash shall be preserved by the investigating authority.
  6. The investigative authority will respond to police vehicle crashes that occur in:
    - Prince William County
    - Arlington County
    - Loudoun County
    - City of Fairfax
    - City of Falls Church
    - City of Alexandria
    - District of Columbia
    - Prince George’s County, Maryland
    - Montgomery County, Maryland


With duty officer or commander approval, in some limited instances involving minor crashes, an immediate response by the investigative authority may not be required. The investigative authority may utilize information and reports from the jurisdiction investigating the crash, telephone interviews, statements and interviews from the involved departmental employee, and other means in lieu of having to respond to the crash scene.

7. In most instances, police vehicle crashes that occur outside the above listed jurisdictions will not require the routine response by the investigative authority. The investigative authority may utilize the crash report and related investigative reports from the jurisdiction investigating the crash. In the cases where the crash does not meet the jurisdiction’s reporting requirements, an on-scene crash investigation and written report shall be

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requested by the investigative authority as a professional courtesy.

8. The investigative authority shall obtain copies of any documentation available from the jurisdiction investigating the crash and include all received documentation in the administrative investigation file.

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	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> January 1, 2019	<b>REVIEW:</b> December 2022	
	<b>TOPIC:</b> <b>INVESTIGATION OF DEPARTMENT-LEASED VEHICLE CRASHES</b>		
<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY:</b> CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
<b>ACCREDITATION STANDARDS</b>	<b>CALEA:</b> 61.2.2	<b>VLEPSC:</b> OPR.07.05	


I. DEPARTMENT-LEASED VEHICLE CRASHES

- A. This General Order is intended for any Department-leased vehicle that is leased by the Fairfax County Police Department.
- B. Department-leased vehicles involved in a crash will be investigated in accordance with General Order 506.4, Police Vehicle Crashes Within Fairfax County, or General Order 506.5, Police Vehicle Crashes Outside Fairfax County, depending upon the location of the crash.
- C. The Investigative Authority will need to contact the rental agency (during business hours) to determine which repair facility they would like the vehicle delivered.
- D. Towing and storage of Department-leased vehicles involved in a crash
  - 1. If the Department-leased vehicle needs to be towed, the closest available Fairfax County contracted wrecker will be used. During business hours, the vehicle will be taken to the repair facility determined by the rental agency. After normal business hours, the vehicle will be taken to the nearest police facility until the next working day. The rental agency will be contacted at that time to arrange removal to a repair facility.
  - 2. If the Department-leased vehicle can be driven, it should be returned to the operator's station or assignment.
- E. Repair/replacement arrangements of Department-leased vehicles involved in a crash
  - 1. If the Investigative Authority initially believes the departmental employee is at fault or if fault cannot be determined, the Investigative Authority

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must obtain two repair estimates. The Resource Management Bureau's vehicle coordinator will assist in arranging for estimates. The estimates, along with the Department-leased vehicle, will be given to the rental agency. The rental agency will then provide a replacement vehicle. A copy of the estimates will be forwarded to the Financial Resources Division of the Administrative Support Bureau for proper processing.

2. If the Investigative Authority initially believes the departmental employee is NOT at fault, the Department-leased vehicle will be taken to the repair facility determined by the rental agency. Any disputes as to liability for damages shall be referred to the Fairfax County Risk Management Division for further review and action.

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	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEGAL REFERENCES</b></p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: Not Applicable		
	VLEPSC: Not Applicable		

I. LEGAL REFERENCES

- A. [Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-373](#); Report by law-enforcement officer investigating accident.

General Orders 506.0 through 506.7 become effective on January 1, 2019, and rescind all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subjects.

ISSUED BY:



Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:



County Executive