

**LOS ANGELES PORT POLICE**  
**POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)**  
**VEHICLE OPERATIONS- DRIVING (4 Hours)**

**Instructional Goal:** Provide the trainee with the minimum topics of Driver Training/Awareness required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program including: Basic Driving Principles, Legal and Moral Aspects, Defensive Driving and Maneuvering Course Exercise to enhance students' efficiency and safety in operating police vehicles.

**Performance Objective:** Using lecture and practical application the student will:

Demonstrate knowledge of their Driver Training/Awareness skills and techniques.  
Demonstrate a minimum standard of psychomotor skills with every technique and exercise, to include:

- Judgment
- Decision Making
- Defensive Driving
- Basic Driving Principles
- Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
- Vehicle Dynamics

**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet 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/Testing

**II. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES**

**(g)**

- A. Weight Transfer
  - 1. Weight distributed between front and rear wheels
  - 2. Engine location has greater part of weight distribution
  - 3. Types of weight transfer created when:
    - a. Lateral: Side to side
    - b. Longitudinal: Front to rear/Rear to front
  - 4. Lateral transfer created when vehicle turned left/right
  - 5. Longitudinal transfer created when:
    - a. Breaking: Rear to front of vehicle
    - b. Accelerating: Front to rear of vehicle
    - c. Decelerating: Rear to front of vehicle
  - 6. Cannot be eliminated in a moving vehicle
  - 7. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

## B. Steering Control

### a. Seating Position

- a. Driver Comfort
- b. Efficient vehicle control
- c. Wrist break over top of steering wheel
- d. Seated 12" from air bag
- e. Adjust mirrors

### b. 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. Minimizes weight transfer
- f. Minimizes air bag deployment injury

### c. Steering method B Backing

(e)

- a. Body rotated to right
- b. Right hand placed on right headrest
- c. Vision directed over right shoulder
- d. Left hand on steering wheel at twelve-o'clock position
- e. Press left leg against bottom of steering wheel for stability
- f. Left foot braced on floorboard

## C. Roadway Position

1. Definition: The position of the vehicle on the roadway that maximizes speed with minimum steering and risk of loss of vehicle control while negotiating a turn.
  - a. AKA – "Driving line"
2. Driving advantages
  - a. Minimize and control weight transfer
  - b. Minimize steering input
  - c. Smoother vehicle operation
  - d. Maximum speed through turns in the safest manner
3. Driving points in a turn
  - a. Entry (Point #1)
  - b. Apex (Point #2)
  - c. Exit (Point #3)

## III. LEGAL AND MORAL ASPECTS

(f)

### A. California 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
- C. Agency Policy (Policy 314)
- D. Moral Aspects

#### **IV. DEFENSIVE DRIVING**

**(c)**

##### A. Defensive Drivers

1. Avoid collisions regardless of right-of-way
2. React properly to hazards
3. Maintain a professional attitude

##### B. Dangerous Driver Attitudes

1. Overconfidence
2. Self-righteousness
3. Impatience
4. Preoccupation

##### C. Collision Avoidance

1. Space cushion
  - a. Three second rule
  - b. Perception/ Reaction time
  - c. When stopped see rear wheels of vehicle in front of you
2. Intersections **(d)**
  - a. Clear left, right, then left again
  - b. Cover the brake pedal on a “stale green light”
  - c. Don’t turn wheels until ready for turn
  - d. Look through turns
3. Maintain high visual horizon
4. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
5. Backing
  - a. Large percentage of collisions involving police officers
  - b. Use proper backing techniques
6. Lane change
  - a. Signal
7. Blind Spots

##### D. Occupant Safety Devices

1. Safety belts
2. Supplemental Restraint System

##### E. Vehicle Dynamics

1. Rear wheel cheat
2. Front-end swing
3. Over-Steer

4. Under-Steer

**V. MANEUVERING COURSE EXERCISES**

**(a,b)**

- A. Offset Lane Exercise
- B. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
- C. Steering Course Exercise
- D. Turn around at a Driveway
- E. Parallel Parking Exercise

**(e)**

**VI. TESTING**

- A. Any student scoring below standard, as established by the presenter, will be remediated until the testing standard is achieved.**