

SECTION 5

Patrol Vehicle Operations

5.1 – 5.6 COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

Contents	
5.1 Patrol Vehicle Inspections	List of Subtopics
5.2 Patrol Vehicle Operation Safety	Attestation
5.3 SAFE Driving	Instructions to Administrators
5.4 Use of Seatbelts	Instructions to FTOs
5.5 Emergency Vehicle Operations/Pursuits	
5.6 Vehicle Operation Liability	

Note to Administrators

In order for POST to review and approve your agency's *Field Training Guide*, you MUST submit the following electronic files:

- 1) The POST FTP Approval Checklist ([Form 2-230](#))
- 2) Your department's *Policy & Procedure Manual*
- 3) Your completed Guide (Volumes 1 & 2), including ALL competency requirements covered in Part 5, Sections 1–18.

LIST OF SUBTOPICS**5.1 PATROL VEHICLE INSPECTION**

- 5.1.01 Purposes of Vehicle Inspections
- 5.1.02 Vehicle Components
- 5.1.03 Requests for Vehicle Service
- 5.1.04 Vehicle Maintenance
- 5.1.05 Pre-Shift Inspection

5.2 PATROL VEHICLE OPERATION SAFETY

- 5.2.01 Approved Driving Techniques
- 5.2.02 Stopping Distance
- 5.2.03 Defensive Driving
- 5.2.04 Driver Attitude

5.3 SITUATION-APPROPRIATE, FOCUSED, EDUCATED (SAFE) DRIVING

- 5.3.01 Applying SAFE Driving Techniques
- 5.3.02 Ongoing Driving Instruction/Training
- 5.3.03 Potential Risks Related to Inappropriate Driving
- 5.3.04 Driver Fatigue
- 5.3.05 Driving Safely

5.4 USE OF SEATBELTS

- 5.4.01 Seatbelt Use during Routine and Emergency Driving Conditions and Tactical Seatbelt Removal

5.5 PATROL VEHICLE OPERATION SAFETY

- 5.5.01 Agency Policy
- 5.5.02 Driver Tactics
- 5.5.03 Continuing vs. Terminating Pursuits
- 5.5.04 Handling Emergency Response or Pursuit

5.6 VEHICLE OPERATION LIABILITY

- 5.6.01 “Rules of the Road”
- 5.6.02 Vehicle Code Exemptions
- 5.6.03 Exemption Requirements
- 5.5.04 Liability for Death, Injury or Property Damage

SECTION 5 PATROL VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CHECK ONE ONLY: PHASE 1 PHASE 2 PHASE 3 PHASE 4 PHASE 5

Trainee

FTO

5.1 PATROL VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

5.1.01 Purposes of Vehicle Inspections
 The trainee shall explain the purposes of a vehicle inspection prior to driving. These shall minimally include:

A. Prevention of accidents	C. Reduction of maintenance and repair costs
B. Promotion of operational efficiency	D. Location of contraband, evidence, or property

<i>Reference(s):</i>					<i>Case # (if applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Additional Information:

5.1.01 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.1.01 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.1.02 Vehicle Components
 The trainee shall describe the location and use of the following:

A. Rear door locks	G. Radio
B. Trunk and hood release	H. Spare tire
C. Firearms/weapon release systems	I. Spare tire release
D. Emergency lights and siren switches	J. Jack and handle
E. Flares	K. Engine fluid compartments and dip sticks
F. First-aid equipment	

<i>Reference(s):</i>						Case # (If applicable)		Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
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Additional Information:

5.1.02	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

5.1.02	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.1.03 Requests for Vehicle Service								
The trainee shall explain agency policy regarding requests for vehicle service in the field.								
Reference(s):						Case # (if applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Additional Information:

5.1.03	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

5.1.03	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.1.04 Vehicle Maintenance
 The trainee shall explain agency policy regarding proper maintenance of police vehicles. This explanation shall minimally include:

A. The procedure for regular maintenance and service of patrol vehicles C. Completion of proper forms/documentation
 B. The procedure for turning in and requesting repair for a damaged or mechanically deficient vehicle

<i>Reference(s):</i>					<i>Case # (If applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.1.04 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.1.04 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.1.05 Pre-Shift Inspection
 The trainee shall conduct a pre-shift inspection of the patrol vehicle, to include:

<p>A. Visual check of vehicle exterior for damage</p> <p>B. Tires for wear and proper inflation</p> <p>C. Inspection of the trunk for the spare tire and required equipment</p> <p>D. Operations check of the vehicle equipment (lights, horn, etc.), and the emergency equipment (light bar, siren, public address system, etc.)</p>	<p>E. Inspection of the firearms/weapons release systems</p> <p>F. Inspection of vehicle interior that includes checking behind the sun visors, in the glove box, and beneath the seats for contraband, evidence, property, or items left from a previous shift</p>
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<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (if applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
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Additional Information:

5.1.05 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.1.05 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.2 PATROL VEHICLE OPERATION SAFETY								
5.2.01 Approved Driving Techniques								
The trainee shall review and explain agency policy on approved driving techniques, including:								
A. Backing		D. Passing		E. Excessive speed				
B. Parking								
C. Right-of-way violations								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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5.2.01	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.1.01	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.2.02 Stopping Distance
 The trainee shall discuss the factors which influence the overall stopping distance of a vehicle, including:

A. Driver condition	E. Reaction time and distance
B. Vehicle condition	F. Braking distance
C. Environmental conditions, including road surfaces	G. Knowledge of anti-lock braking system
D. Vehicle speeds	

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (if applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.2.02 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.2.02 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.2.03 Defensive Driving The trainee shall identify the components of defensive driving, including: A. Driver attitude B. Driver skill C. Vehicle capability D. Seat belt usage								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.2.03	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.2.03	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.2.04 Driver Attitude The trainee shall identify driver attitudes that can contribute to the occurrence of traffic accidents, including: A. Overconfidence B. Impatience C. "Road rage" D. Self righteousness								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.2.04	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.2.04	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.3 SITUATION-APPROPRIATE, FOCUSED, EDUCATED (SAFE) DRIVING

5.3.01 Applying SAFE Driving Techniques
 The trainee will understand and demonstrate the application of SAFE driving during routine and emergency situations. The elements of SAFE driving include:

A. “Situation-Appropriate” – refers to the need for law enforcement officers to modify their driving for the varied circumstances encountered in a patrol driving environment, for example:

1. Routine patrol vs. “Code 3” driving
2. School zone vs. rural highway driving
3. Transitioning from freeways and commercial/ business/industrial areas into residential neighborhood streets
4. Driving in inclement weather and/or at night vs. ideal dry/clear weather and/or daylight conditions

B. The trainee will understand that the “appropriateness” of his/her driving style for the conditions present is also dictated by agency policy. FTOs, supervisors, managers, and department heads will reinforce what driving attitudes are “appropriate” for specific situations.

C. “Focused” – addresses the many concerns related to roadway position/conditions, distractions, fatigue, multi-tasking, equipment, and driver capabilities.

D. “Educated” – refers to training (academy, FTO, in- service/ongoing) and policy, and the need for the trainee to continually apply knowledge gained in these areas to his/her daily driving habits.

Reference(s):					Case # (if applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Additional Information:

5.3.01	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.3.01	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.3.02 Ongoing Driving Instruction/Training
 The trainee will understand the importance of the following critical areas of driving instruction and be able to explain how ongoing exposure and training in each area can benefit the trainee in the application of SAFE driving:

A. Use of Law Enforcement Driving Simulators in addition to Emergency Vehicle Operations Courses in ongoing and in-service training
 B. Speeds officers are expected to encounter in routine and emergency driving
 C. Night driving
 D. Use of interference vehicle(s) to simulate actual roadway conditions

Reference(s):					Case # (If applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Trainee:								
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Additional Information:

5.3.02 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.3.02 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.3.03 Potential Risks Related to Inappropriate Driving

The trainee will be made aware that routine and emergency patrol driving are among the most critically serious and potentially dangerous functions of a law enforcement officer. There is a real and ever present risk of injury or death to officers and members of the public when an officer drives in a manner unsafe for conditions, beyond their capabilities, or beyond the capabilities of their patrol vehicle.

Between 2003 and 2010, more officers were injured or killed in traffic accidents than in assaults. In addition, severe criminal and/or civil sanctions can be imposed on the law enforcement officer and/or organization as a result of unsafe vehicle operation.

The trainee will be made aware of these facts and will relate the importance of SAFE driving to the FTO. The trainee will continually demonstrate SAFE driving practices throughout the FTO program in preparation for continued SAFE driving throughout his/her law enforcement career.

Reference(s):					Case # (If applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Trainee:								
Comments:								

Additional Information:

5.3.03 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.3.03 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.3.04 Driver Fatigue
 The trainee shall discuss the effects of driver fatigue, including:

A. Lower visual efficiency	E. Lack of awareness
B. Slower reaction time	F. Mood changes
C. Reduced attentiveness	G. Reduced judgment ability
D. Memory lapses	H. Risk of falling asleep at the wheel

<i>Reference(s):</i>						Case # (If applicable)		Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?	
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date		
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Trainee:									
Comments:									

Additional Information:

5.3.04 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.3.04 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.3.05 Driving Safely								
The trainee shall drive the vehicle in a safe and alert manner complying with all laws, regulations, and policies.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Trainee:								
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Additional Information:

5.3.05	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.3.05	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.4 USE OF SEATBELTS										
5.4.01 Seatbelt Use during Routine and Emergency Driving Conditions and Tactical Seatbelt Removal										
<p>The trainee will review agency policy regarding the use of seatbelts while on patrol. The trainee will be made aware of the fact that use of the seatbelt in both routine and emergency driving dramatically increases the chance of survival and decreases the potential for injury during crash.</p> <p>Tactical seatbelt removal (removing the seatbelt as the patrol vehicle slows just prior to safely coming to a stop, so the officer can quickly exit the vehicle) will be discussed by the FTO if such practice is allowed by agency policy. If agency policy allows such practice, the trainee will demonstrate when to appropriately use a tactical removal of the seatbelt.</p> <p>The FTO will continually monitor seatbelt use (and tactical removal of the seatbelt when appropriate) to ensure that the trainee is habitually wearing the seatbelt while on patrol, and is only removing it during a safe and opportune time, given the situation at hand.</p>										
Reference(s):								Case # (If applicable)		Incident #
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?		
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Additional Information:

5.4.01	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)		<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.4.01	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.5 EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS/PURSUIITS								
5.5.01 Agency Policy The trainee shall review and explain the agency’s policy concerning pursuits and Code 3 driving.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
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Additional Information:

5.5.01	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.5.01	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.5.02 Driver Tactics
 The trainee shall identify the tactics that should be utilized by the driver of an emergency vehicle while in a pursuit or during any other emergency response. These tactics shall minimally include:

A. Slowing for intersections
 B. Careful observation at cross streets
 C. Caution when passing other vehicles
 D. Constant alertness for any unforeseen hazards
 E. Using a well planned route of travel in emergency response situations

<i>Reference(s):</i>					Case # (if applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
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Additional Information:

5.5.02 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.5.02 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.5.03 Continuing vs. Terminating Pursuits
 The trainee shall discuss those factors to consider in determining whether to continue or terminate/abandon a pursuit. These factors shall minimally include:

A. Amount of other traffic (vehicular and pedestrian)	E. Seriousness of crime(s) in relation to potential likelihood of injury to innocent persons or damage to property
B. Road hazards and road conditions	F. Whether vehicle or driver can be identified
C. Environmental conditions	
D. Capability and condition of patrol vehicle and driver	

<i>Reference(s):</i>						<i>Case # (if applicable)</i>	<i>Incident #</i>	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.5.03 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.5.03 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.5.04 Handling Emergency Response or Pursuit								
Given a simulated or an actual emergency response or pursuit, the trainee shall demonstrate safe and effective driving practices.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
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Additional Information:

5.5.04	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.5.04	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.6 VEHICLE OPERATION LIABILITY								
5.6.01 “Rules of the Road”								
The trainee shall discuss how an officer operating a patrol vehicle under non-emergency conditions is subject to the same “rule of the road” as any other driver.								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
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5.6.01	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.6.01	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.6.02 Vehicle Code Exemptions
 The trainee shall explain the situations in which the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from the Vehicle Code provisions listed in Section 21055, including:

A. Responding to an emergency call
 B. Engaged in a rescue operation
 C. In pursuit of a violator
 D. Responding to a fire alarm

Reference(s):					Case # (If applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
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Additional Information:

5.6.02 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.6.02 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

5.6.03 Exemption Requirements								
The trainee shall explain the exemption requirements of the Vehicle Code regarding the use of red lights and siren under Sections 21055(b) and 21807 .								
Reference(s):						Case # (If applicable)	Incident #	
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments:								

Additional Information:

5.6.03	Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum)	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
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5.6.03	Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)
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5.6.04 Liability for Death, Injury or Property Damage
 The trainee shall explain the conditions under which he/she and/or their agency may be held liable for deaths, injury or property damage which occur while an emergency vehicle is being operated with red lights and siren (Code 3), including:

A. Failure to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons
 B. When the agency has not adopted a written policy on police pursuits in compliance with Vehicle Code 17004.7
 C. A negligent or wrongful act or omission by an employee of a public entity.
 D. When not responding to an emergency call, not in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to other emergencies.

Reference(s):					Case # (if applicable)	Incident #		
	Received Instruction		Competency Demonstrated		How Demonstrated?	Remedial Training		How Remediated?
	When completed, print full name	Date	When completed, print full name	Date		When completed, print full name	Date	
FTO:					<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test			<input type="checkbox"/> Field Perform <input type="checkbox"/> Role Play <input type="checkbox"/> Written Test <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Test
Trainee:								
Comments:								

Additional Information:

5.6.04 Part A - Reference Agency Policies/Procedures, if applicable (600 characters maximum) N/A

5.6.04 Part B - Agency Training Details (field will expand automatically)

See next page for Attestation

See the following pages for Instructions to Administrators and FTOs

How to Complete Part 5 (Sections 1–18)

INSTRUCTIONS TO ADMINISTRATORS

VOLUME 2 OF THE FIELD TRAINING GUIDE CONSISTS OF 18 SECTIONS WHICH MAKE UP PART 5. Each section is provided as a separate file on the POST website (<https://www.post.ca.gov/field-training--police-training.aspx>). Prior to submitting your FTP Guide to POST for review, you must complete all 18 sections and include them as part of your Guide.

1. **Set up:** Keep an unchanged copy of each section file as a master for reference. Make a copy of the file to use for your agency-specific entries.
2. **Front cover (optional):** To keep a hard copy of Volume 2 for internal use, you can add your agency name and date to the front cover.
3. **For each section (1–18):**
 - a. Open the applicable file and add your agency name and date to the header on page 1. (DO NOT change any other headers or footers or alter any other sections of the file.)
 - b. Below each table:
 - Part A:* Enter applicable references from your agency’s Policies & Procedure Manual.
 - Part B:* Enter your agency’s training details.
4. **After completing ALL sections (1–18),** you MUST submit the following materials via flash drive, CD, or DVD to POST for review and approval (do not send printed copies):
 - 1) **Your completed FTP Guide**
 - 2) **FTP Approval Checklist** ([POST Form 2-230](#))
NOTE: Guides submitted without this form will NOT be reviewed.
 - 3) **Your Department’s Policy & Procedure Manual**
5. MAIL YOUR ELECTRONIC MEDIA TO:
Commission on POST
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Attn: Basic Training Bureau (BTB)
6. All applicants shall be notified in writing within **30** working days regarding the completeness of the package and application. A decision for approval shall be reached within **45** working days from the date the completed application is received.

See next page for Instructions to Field Training Officers

How to Complete Part 5 (Sections 1–18)

INSTRUCTIONS TO FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS (FTOs)

VOLUME 2 OF THE FIELD TRAINING GUIDE CONSISTS OF 18 SECTIONS WHICH MAKE UP PART 5. Each section has been customized by your agency administrator(s) to include references to policies and procedures and training details to meet your agency’s Field Training Program requirements. Each file is provided as a separate file. For each section (1–18), complete all tables for each topic.

1. **Set up:** Keep an unchanged copy of each section file as a master for reference. Make a copy of the file to use for your training sessions.
2. **Tracking your training sessions:**
 - a. Upon completing each competency, enter the FTO and trainee names and dates, and how the competency was demonstrated, into the applicable tables.
 - b. Enter any note-worthy comments related to the trainee’s performance.
3. **If trainee requires remedial training:**
 - c. Enter the FTO and trainee names and dates, and how the competency was remediated, to show that each competency was completed.
 - d. Enter any additional note-worthy comments related to the trainee’s performance.
4. **Attestation:** After all competencies have been performed, including any remedial training, the primary FTO and Trainee **MUST** enter their electronic signatures on the Attestation page (see instructions) to verify that the Trainee has completed this portion of the Field Training Program.

End Section