

**BELL GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)**  
**II - DRIVER TRAINING/AWARENESS (4 Hours)**

**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

**I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION**

- A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
- B. Course Objectives/Overview/Exercises, Evaluation/Testing

**II. BASIC DRIVING PRINCIPLES**

**II(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
  - 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. Braking B Rear/front
  - b. Accelerating B Front/rear
  - c. Decelerating B Rear/front
- 6. Can't be eliminated in a moving vehicle
- 7. Minimized by good driving techniques and smooth operation

**B. Steering Control**

- 1. 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
- 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. Minimizes weight transfer
  - f. Minimizes air bag deployment injury
- 3. Steering method B Backing
  - 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

**II(e)**

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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. 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

II(f)

A. California Codes

1. 17001 CVC - Liable for death or injury to person or property proximately caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission in the operation of any motor vehicle by an employee of the public entity acting within the scope of his employment.
2. 17004 CVC - Civil Liability – Employee, Employment, Public Entity
3. 17004.7 CVC - Immunity
4. 21052 CVC - Rules of the road applicable to all drivers
5. 21055 CVC - Authorized emergency vehicle exemption
6. 21056 CVC - Duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons
7. 21057 CVC - Siren/lights prohibition at illegal speed during escort, except emergency
8. 21806 CVC - Rules of the road upon immediate approach of emergency vehicle
9. 21807 CVC - Not relieve officer from duty to drive with due regard for safety
10. 22350 CVC - Speed

B. Case law

1. Lewis v. County of Sacramento - The question before the Court was: Does a police officer violate substantive due process by causing death through reckless indifference to life in a high-speed chase aimed at apprehending a suspected offender? The answer was a unanimous "no."
2. Peterson v. City of Long Beach – Negligence -Violation of Police Department Internal Regulation Creates Rebuttable Presumption of Negligence Under State Evidence Statute
3. Scott v. Harris - The US Supreme Court sided with police and ruled that a "police officer's attempt to terminate a dangerous high-speed car chase that threatens the

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lives of innocent bystanders does not violate the Fourth Amendment, even when it places the fleeing motorist at risk of serious injury or death.

C. Agency policy

1. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
2. BGPD Core Values
3. Use of Force – Policy 300
4. Vehicle Pursuits – Policy 307
5. Response to Calls – Policy 308
6. Standards of Conduct – Policy 320
7. Traffic Signal Preemption – Policy 438
8. Vehicle Maintenance – Policy 702
9. Vehicle Use – Policy 703
10. Seat Belts – Policy 1011

D. Moral aspects

1. Law Enforcement Code of Ethics
2. Law Enforcement Oath of Honor
3. BGPD Core Values

IV. DEFENSIVE DRIVING

**II(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
2. Intersections
  - a. Clear left, right, then left again
  - b. Cover brake on stale green
  - c. Don't turn wheels until ready for turn
  - d. Look through turns
3. Maintain high visual horizon

**II(d)**

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- 4. Consider steering to the rear of a conflict vehicle
- 5. Backing
  - a. Large percentage of collisions involving LE vehicles
  - b. Use proper backing techniques
- 6. Lane changes
  - a. Signal
- 7. Blind spots

- D. Occupant Safety Devices
  - 1. Safety belts
  - 2. Supplemental Restraint System (air bags)

- E. Vehicle Dynamics **II(g)**
  - 1. Rear wheel cheat
  - 2. Front-end swing
  - 3. Oversteer
  - 4. Understeer

**V. MANEUVERING COURSE EXERCISES **II(a,b)****

- A. Offset Lane Exercise
- B. Turn-Around Maneuver Exercise
- C. Steering Course Exercise
- D. Reverse Maneuver Exercise
- E. Parallel Parking Exercise **II(e)**

***Testing: Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated, tested until standard is achieved.*** **II(b)**