

**NEW HAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE
GENERAL ORDERS**



GENERAL ORDER 8.06

EFFECTIVE DATE:

**FATAL AND SERIOUS INJURY CRASH INVESTIGATIONS
AND
THE CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM**

8.06.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to outline a standard procedure to be followed by the Department when a fatal crash or a serious injury crash occurs within our jurisdiction that requires the deployment of the Crash Reconstruction Team. This order pertains to the role of Department officers who initially respond, and to the role of the Crash Reconstruction Team, its deployment and the responsibility of personnel of various ranks.

The Crash Reconstruction Team is a specialized team within the Patrol Division that has been established to investigate all crashes that result in fatal or life-threatening injuries within the City of New Haven.

8.06.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the New Haven Department of Police Service to deploy the Crash Reconstruction Team to serve as a specialized resource to investigate crashes that result in life-threatening injuries or fatalities. The Crash Reconstruction Team may also be deployed to assist patrol officers in the investigation of crashes that cause serious physical injuries.

8.06.03 DEFINITIONS

MOTOR VEHICLE: Any vehicle propelled or drawn by any nonmuscular power (exceptions outlined in Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 14-1).

SERIOUS INJURIES: Physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health or serious loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH: A motor vehicle crash that results in death, either at the crash scene or within thirty (30) days of the date and time of the motor vehicle crash. The death must be attributed to the crash by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

8.06.04 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The Crash Reconstruction Team is a component of the Patrol Division under the Assistant Chief of Police commanding the Operations Division.

OFFICER IN CHARGE (OIC)

Under the direction of the Assistant Chief of Police commanding the Operations Division, the Crash Reconstruction Team shall be managed by the Deputy Patrol Commander. The OIC's primary responsibility is to supervise the operations of the Crash Reconstruction Team, which will include deployment, training, case management and other duties as directed. He/she must maintain a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and ensure that an updated copy of it is provided to the Internal Affairs Unit. The SOP will contain the policies, procedures, and training requirements for the Crash Reconstruction Team and a list of equipment used by its members. Assistant Crash Reconstruction Team supervisors may be designated by the OIC to act in his/her absence.

UNIT PERSONNEL

The Crash Reconstruction Team members will be selected through a Department-wide application process which will be administered by the OIC.

8.06.05 CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM**RESPONSE GUIDELINES**

The OIC shall be notified of all fatal crashes and crashes that have resulted in life-threatening injuries.

The OIC may be consulted in cases of serious injuries that are not deemed life-threatening. The OIC will have discretion as to when the Crash Reconstruction Team is

deployed. Examples of cases where the Crash Reconstruction Team may be deployed include the following:

- When an operator is suspected of driving under the influence, and another individual receives serious injury as a result of the crash.
- Officer-involved traffic accidents where the officer or another person is seriously injured. However, the State's Attorney's Office will be contacted in any motor vehicle pursuit which results in serious physical injury or death to the driver or occupant of the pursued vehicle or to a third party vehicle.
- Hit-and-run crashes that result in serious injury.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

A request for the Crash Reconstruction Team may be initiated by any police supervisor or Shift Commander to the OIC of the Crash Reconstruction Team. It is the responsibility of the OIC to determine if a response by the Crash Reconstruction Team is appropriate. In the event that the Crash Reconstruction Team is activated, the OIC shall notify the Assistant Chief of Police commanding the Operations Division.

INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Obtain medical assistance for the injured.
- Ensure scene is "frozen" and vehicles are not moved from final rest position(s).
- Conduct a preliminary investigation as outlined in General Order 8.05, Traffic Crash Investigations.
- Perform field sobriety tests and further tests, if alcohol and/or drug use is suspected.
- Unless instructed by the Crash Reconstruction Team, the initial responding officer will not determine fault or take enforcement action.
- If the Crash Reconstruction Team does not respond, take photographs of all serious injury crashes.
- Follow towed vehicles to impound lot to maintain chain of custody. Complete a JD-CR-18 for towed vehicle and submit to the property room.
- Complete the PR-1, and an initial report.
- Assist the traffic crash reconstructionists as needed.

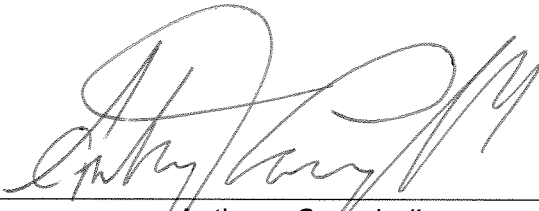
SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Respond to the scene and determine if the Crash Reconstruction Team should be requested. If so, contact the Shift Commander and relay this information.
- Deploy personnel to adequately secure the scene.
- Brief the Lead Accident Reconstructionist upon arrival.
- If the Crash Reconstruction Team does not respond, ensure that photographs are taken of all serious injury crashes.

CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM PERSONNEL

When deployed, the Crash Reconstruction Team will respond to a scene to analyze and collect the evidence that will lead to a determination of how a crash occurred. The lead reconstructionist on a case will prepare criminal cases for review by the State's Attorney's Office.

This supersedes Section 502.5 of General Order 502 - Fatal Motor Vehicle Collision.



Anthony Campbell
Interim Chief of Police

11/16/2016

Date