

a monthly television series for the
in-service training of professional
law enforcement officers in the
six new england states

law enforcement and criminal justice



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law enforcement training project

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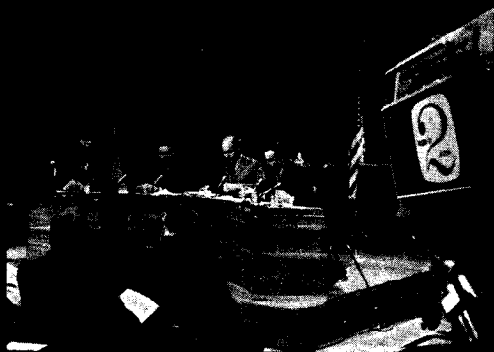
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A SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL COMMANDING OFFICERS CHIEFS, AND TRAINING OFFICERS . . .

As a result of suggestions we have received from chiefs and training officers throughout New England, The Law Enforcement Training Project is making available, on a free loan basis, films of the television broadcasts in the "Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice" series. The programs are on 16 mm. film and can be ordered free of charge by any one of the 423 federal, state or local law enforcement agencies currently participating in the project.

If your department would like to take advantage of the opportunity to schedule viewings of these programs at in-service training seminars or as part of the training offered by your police academy, please send your request to:

**Law Enforcement Training Project
WGBH Educational Foundation
125 Western Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02134**

The subjects of the first ten films, we would appreciate your including with your request the date that you prefer to view the film as well as two alternate dates. We ask this in case the film is already scheduled by other departments on the date of your first choice.

The subject of the first ten programs in the series are:

1. Law of Arrest I
2. Law of Arrest II
3. Search and Seizure
4. Obligations of the Police Towards the Accused
5. Policeman as a Witness
6. Community Relations
7. Scientific Aids
8. Crowd Control and Civil Disorder
9. Accident Investigation I
10. Accident Investigation II

As of the publication of this booklet, the first five programs are available. As a general rule, the films are ready for distribution approximately six weeks after their original broadcast.

PROGRAM VII

SCIENTIFIC AIDS

Science is one of law enforcement's most potent weapons. It gives police officers the flexibility necessary to cope with a rising crime rate and the great sophistication of today's criminals. In the future the problems confronting the police will become even more complex. There will be an increasing need for law enforcement agencies and the scientific community to draw into closer contact. Police officers will have to keep themselves informed of new scientific developments that might be of help to them in performing their duties, especially developments in areas such as military science. Also, the police will have to establish an effective line of communication with scientists working for the universities and the government so that these scientists can adapt their efforts to the needs of local law enforcement agencies.

This program in our series will explain how the application of science and technology to police work can dramatically affect the crime rate and the apprehension of criminals. It does not even attempt to list the vast array of electronic equipment and gadgetry available to the police. If you would like this kind of specific information, we suggest that you contact state and federal law enforcement agencies, particularly the offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A. The receipt of information: studies indicate that the most important factor in determining whether a crime will be solved or not is the speed with which the information of the crime is received and processed by the police. The first critical period is the time which elapses between the occurrence of the incident and the report of that incident to the police.

1. Private individuals can be of major help in detecting crime if there are facilities adequate to send and receive their reports.

a. The local telephone company can be encouraged to adjust their system so that people can call police headquarters without depositing money in pay phones.

1. A department can ask the telephone company to place the telephone number of police headquarters in a conspicuous place so that people can find it without unnecessary delay.

2. Some departments find it useful to maintain two separate numbers: one for routine administrative business, the other for emergency calls.

3. Other departments have found it helpful to adjust the number of clerks and dispatchers they have on hand in order to handle the greatest volume of calls they receive during their busiest period.

b. One other possible means of stimulating the flow of information from the public is to open your call boxes to the public use.

1. If the police call boxes are used for public purposes, they should be well-lighted, well-marked, and well-publicized.

2. False alarms and equipment damage are the two major problems in this area. (You might open a few of the call boxes on an experimental basis to test whether the advantages of the system outweighs its disadvantages.)

2. Structural changes: this phrase refers to changes in the physical environment - in the manner of constructing buildings, automobiles, street lighting systems, etc. - to make crime detection easier. Many decisions of this type are, strictly speaking, beyond the control of the police. You, however, can perform a valuable advisory role helping private individuals reach the proper conclusions.

a. A few examples may help to illustrate the kind of "structural changes" that serve to reduce crime by reducing the opportunities to commit them and by insuring a more rapid and complete report of incidents to the police.

1. Better street lighting.

2. Making certain that stores have unobstructed views of the interior and that factories and offices in high crime areas are equipped with the proper warning devices, such as burglar alarms.

3. Photographs placed on credit cards for identification.

4. Improved lock designs for safes, buildings, and automobiles. (West Germany, for instance, experienced a 25% decrease in auto thefts over a three year period after automobile manufacturers began including ignition locks, gearbox locks, and so forth in their cars.)

b. You should always be aware of ideas like these and be willing to tell private persons about them.

3. Computers: one further advance in guaranteeing the rapid and efficient flow of information to the police is the development of computers that can be used at headquarters. Alarms, electronic eyes, and other such devices can be connected to this computer so that messages can be directly transmitted to your offices. The computer can be further programmed to select automatically the patrol car nearest the alarm and to dispatch the car to the scene of the crime.

B. The processing of reports: the critical period here is the time which elapses between the receipt of the report and the dispatch of a car to investigate it.

1. The clerk initially receives the report and must decide what to do with it.

a. A classification system for messages (e.g. emergency, non-emergency) has been found useful by some New England police departments in deciding what calls should receive priority attention. The method of classifying these messages is important. Clear standards for classification should be established, and the clerk should compile all of the basic essentials concerning the incident in order to place it in its proper category.

b. After this initial report, a mobile unit should be dispatched to the crime scene as quickly as possible.

c. In times and areas of greatest criminal activity, mobile units should be deployed appropriately.

2. A central computer at headquarters would also be an invaluable aid in processing reports. The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice (i.e. President's Crime Commission) envisions a system where the department clerk receives a report and then enters the type of incident involved, the address, and a priority code number on a data card. The card is then fed into the computer which is attached to an automatic car locator. The computer decides whether to send a scooter, a one or two man car, etc. to the scene of the crime. The machine will then automatically carry out its decision.

a. Other information, such as the type of building involved, its size, location of exits, and escape routes, can also be fed into the computer and relayed to the patrol car as it speeds to the crime.

b. The computer can also redeploy units when special times or conditions demand it.

C. The arrival of the dispatched car at the crime scene: it is essential here to reduce the time which elapses between the moment of dispatch and the final arrival of the police car at its destination.

1. A major problem that has arisen in recent years is the increasing congestion of radio frequencies. Small portable radios are one answer to this problem; teleprinters, which deliver written rather than oral messages, are another.

2. Highly mobile police vehicles are available today. Motor scooters have proven effective in heavy city traffic. Helicopters are useful for highway patrol, traffic spotting and special needs (e.g. roof-top searches).

3. It is possible that a prototype of a model police car will be developed in the near future. This vehicle would be equipped with such things as a camera, non-lethal weapons, a magnetometer for detecting concealed weapons, and recording equipment to preserve the testimony of witnesses and to help prove that suspects were informed of their rights. Equipment on this car would be standardized so that the department could interchange parts when necessary.

D. Investigation at the crime scene: the fundamental principle to remember here is to gather as much information as possible at the scene of the crime. It is particularly important to ascertain the identity of any suspect. The President's Crime Commission found that this particular piece of information - the name of a suspect - is the most important factor leading to the clearance of crimes. (Most crimes without a named suspect are cleared by an arrest at the scene of the crime.)

1. State laboratories, and the laboratories of the FBI, will process evidence for you. They perform a great variety of functions, from serology (i.e. the analysis of blood and other body fluids), to analysis of hair, paint, shoe and tire impression etc.

a. The FBI will provide local departments with information concerning the laboratory facilities of the Bureau. Information on the proper packaging of evidence, the possibilities of fingerprint identification, and many other subjects are available on request. Write to FBI headquarters in Washington, D. C.

b. Hopefully, regional laboratories will soon develop to augment the efforts of states and the FBI.

2. New developments in this area hold great promise for more effective crime control in the coming years. Voice prints are an example of an entirely new source of identification not previously available to law enforcement agencies. Scientists are currently at work on a "neutron activation process that promises to make analysis and identification more accurate than it has ever been before."

E. Information Centers: planners hope that these centralized "banks" can be established on national, regional, state and local levels.

1. The National Crime Information Center of the FBI is already in operation. The center

is open to use by local law enforcement agencies that have need of it. It now contains information on stolen automobiles, certain types of stolen property, and wanted persons. Later, it will be expanded to include other information of value to law enforcement officers.

2. The regional, state, and local systems will handle information not contained in the national information center. This will include things such as motor vehicle registration, fraudulent documents, and missing persons.
 3. Uniform definitions and formats will have to be developed to make this kind of system work well. Also, precautions will have to be taken to guard against unauthorized access to the files. A balance must be struck between the needs of law enforcement and the individual citizen's right to privacy.
- F. Today, scientists and police officers are working together to develop and perfect both old and new scientific aids.
1. We have already mentioned some of the more important devices the police are experimenting with:
 - a. Magnetometers for the detection of metals which will eliminate many of the search and seizure problems policemen face;
 - b. Voice prints which try to evaluate the characteristic sounds of the human voice in order to compare and identify voice patterns. These can be used to record conversations directly or over the telephone, and they have already been used at some trials to help obtain convictions;
 - c. Portable radios and wrist radios which allow the individual officer to maintain constant contact with the station house and to communicate on-the-spot when necessary;
 - d. Neutron activation, a means of analyzing chemical elements in paint, clothing, hair, blood, etc. with a greater degree of reliability than previously possible.
 2. In considering future possibilities concerning scientific aids, you should not forget equipment currently available to you. Blood samples and breath testing equipment are especially important in detecting alcohol.
 3. New riot control devices are being developed in order to help the police deal with current problems.
 - a. "Banana peel" is a chemical substance that can be spread on streets in riot areas. It is extremely slippery and makes walking difficult and running practically im-

possible. It has potential in the area of looter-control.

- b. Some people feel that chemical foam sprayed into large groups helps disperse them. People are covered by the harmless foam, lose their sense of direction and their feeling of solidarity, and eventually stop rioting.
- c. A new idea concerns the use of high-pitched sound or strong smelling odorants to help drive crowds away. The sound causes pain in the inner ear, and the smell can make people slightly ill unless they leave the area to escape it. Of course, neither of these techniques will be usable until an effective means of control is worked out.
- d. Nonlethal weapons (e.g. hypodermic darts) are also under consideration. Chemical mace has been successfully used by departments across the country to subdue violent assailants without injuring either the assailant or the officer. Mace, however, is not 100% effective. There have been instances in which it failed to stop the oncoming party, and officers using the mace have been seriously injured.
4. Chemical dyes are a way of marking people so that later they can be traced and arrested. In fact, one variety of mace contains a fluorescent material that can be checked with special equipment. It is an additional guarantee of eventual capture.

PROGRAM VIII CROWD CONTROL AND CIVIL DISORDER *

by James P. Kelly

Wherever a large number of people congregate, e.g. at rallies, sports events, strikes, parades, or even peaceful demonstrations, the potential for mob violence is always present.

Today we have been conditioned by the great number of civil disturbances in our major cities throughout the country, aggravated to some degree by the coverage given to them by the mass media, to think of riots as sudden, uncontrollable rampages through the streets, leaving a toll of destruction and loss of life in their wake.

Law enforcement agencies, however, should be trained to handle all kinds of crowds and to control them whether they are hostile or friendly.

We can define a crowd as a large group of people gathered together temporarily for a specific purpose. Usually crowds are orderly and leaderless and seldom require police supervision. In particular instances a crowd can represent a distinct hazard to the order of society.

* The Law Enforcement Training Project is grateful for the assistance of the I.A.C.P. in the planning and preparation of this section.

Take, for example a crowd gathering to watch the police make an arrest. You will recall from the media accounts how many of the major riots in 1967 began with a summary police arrest against an individual or group who were involved in some violation of the law. Initially, the crowd is curious.. It has little or no organization or unity, and its members come and go. At first, such a group will follow police urging to "move on." It is in these instances that officers lacking proper judgment may contribute to the circumstances that polarize crowd resistance.

A "grievance level" exists to a certain degree in every community. There is some latent resistance to authority, particularly in some of the "inner core" cities, which for many reasons can exist without close contact with the law enforcement agencies in the community. Many of the "inner city" residents are unemployed migrants. Reflecting some of the somber signs of their origin, these people (we may call them the Underclass" as Gunnar Myrdal did, or "Disadvantaged" as many other sociologists do) are hostile to law and order. This is usually repressed until a triggering mechanism, such as a late night arrest or other police action causes a crowd to collect. These latent feelings in many instances, are reinforced by a Friday night "binge." Under the pressures generated by aggravation, they bubble to the surface. You are now faced with a problem. Sufficient manpower is necessary for proper crowd control. In the initial stages of these "incidents" this is lacking. **NEVER HESITATE TO CALL FOR HELP.** This does not mean that a response of overwhelming force is necessary.

Experience has shown that the use of injudicious force has only served to aggravate a mob and make it more aggressive. Violence then becomes compounded. Three good points to remember are:

One

Whenever possible, isolate and remove individuals in the summary police action before the crowd can achieve an aggressive unity of purpose.

Two

Break the crowd up into fragmented groups. This reduces the group-influenced behaviour of the crowd and also reduces the "milling" process. There is a distinct difference between the terms **SHOW OF FORCE** and **USE OF FORCE**, and these should be understood at the outset. Well-trained, disciplined police officers in adequate numbers will usually suffice in this instance.

Three

If there is a racially tense situation, recognized leaders of the minority group often appear somewhere on the periphery of the scene and direct the activities of the mob. Good police intelligence should have already established their identity, and their removal from the scene will measurably increase your success in quelling the disturbance. This applies also to the boisterous, self-appointed

leaders who appear spontaneously at some demonstrations to incite the crowd. Of course, the removal should be handled as diplomatically and inconspicuously as possible for fear of worsening the situation.

It has become apparent from the study of riots in several of our cities that an effective method of counteracting the process of leadership in a crowd is by utilization of someone who has a greater appeal or prestige among the members of the crowd, e.g. well-known athletes and political figures (the mere appearance of a mayor in the ghetto sections of one northern and one southern city almost singlehandedly reduced major tensions).

Members of the clergy can help to blunt the tense, emotional attitudes that prevail during a mob scene or riot. **DO NOT HESITATE TO USE OR SUGGEST THE USE OF SUCH PEOPLE.** It in no way lessens your authority as law enforcement officers, but rather confirms your proper understanding of the situation.

Types Of Demonstrations

Today we have become acquainted with the non-violent type of demonstration which, while not new, has come to be used very effectively in both large and small cities. The demonstrators can be school teachers, demonstrating for higher wages, citizen groups protesting some form of social or economic conditions, or labor unions striking a construction site. Several characteristics distinguish these demonstrations from mobs:

1. They are usually well organized;
2. They have effective leaders;
3. The members of the protesting groups are well-disciplined and non-violent.

These groups require minimal police supervision and are usually well-handled. There are other groups, protesting government policy, the draft, etc., which have a deceptive facade of docility and non-violence. Some of these groups will test your good judgment and your discipline by subtle provocation.

The important thing to remember is that your protection must extend to all people. The latter groups are sometimes set upon by counter-movements in the community, and violence ensues. As police officers, we must be fair. Equal treatment must be given to all. Neutrality must be observed by you despite your personal feelings. No special privileges should be given. Firmness should be exercised at all times. If an order is given by you, it must be executed to the letter. **YOUR CONCERN, AND YOUR ONLY CONCERN, IS TO PRESERVE THE PEACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** This means assuring the rights of citizens to protest, but it also means the protection of life and property.

What To Do If You Are First On The Scene Of An Unusual Occurrence

If you observe a crowd gathering and it appears to be hostile, never delay in calling for assistance. Approach the more vocal members of the crowd. When talking to them, use firmness, but carefully word your commands. Do not make idle threats which cannot be enforced. Do not become involved in an argument. You will not win it! Use simple language in informing the people of the violation, if any, that they are committing. Suggest that the group disperse peacefully. Give them time to do so. If they refuse after a reasonable time, make what arrests are necessary, remembering that your judgment in dealing with a hostile and emotionally-motivated mob may result in potentially dangerous situations developing. Your attitude and good example in these early stages are usually the best deterrents to mob activity.

The Do's And Dont's Of Crowd Control

1. Don't give ground unless your good judgment indicates that it would be foolish to remain in an exposed position.
2. Avoid unnecessary conversations which lead into arguments with members of the crowd.
3. Do not apologize for your actions as a police officer.
4. Place under arrest anyone violating the law in your presence.
5. Do not bluff the crowd. If you give an order and it is not obeyed, make an arrest.
6. Use reasonable force. Excessive force excites the crowd and makes them more unruly. Also, it is usually not necessary.
7. If you note a violator and he has sought refuge in the crowd, wait until proper reinforcements are available before making an arrest.
8. Back up your associates. If they are assaulted, assist them immediately, and arrest the assailant. This discourages further assaults on the part of the mob.

If all the things that we have said about controlling a crowd prove fruitless, the crowd will degenerate into a mob and a riot starts. Now what do you do?

A riot comes under the heading, in police parlance, of a **Major Unusual Disturbance**. It can be defined as any unusual occurrence that threatens the safety of the town or city to such an extent that in the opinion of the authorities it is necessary to activate the entire department for the purpose of restoring control.

Regardless of the size of the department (since outside help, such as State Police or National Guard troops, would soon be forthcoming), the

first step is to establish some sort of **Emergency Control Center** to which all the officers will report and which serves as headquarters for the chief or head of the department. **THE ECC SHALL PROVIDE DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES TO FIELD TASK FORCES AS REQUIRED.**

The area of responsibility in a riot would ordinarily be the entire area within the perimeter of the disturbance, although it might also include a number of "brush fire" disturbances, such as happened in Watts and Detroit. A **Field Command Post** may set up subordinate command posts, or satellites, which are closer to the scene of action. These may consist of nothing more than a radio patrol car in two-way communication with the Command Post.

In a riot, or civil disturbance, physical limitations make it impossible to cover the entire area of tactical responsibility. Your primary responsibility in this situation is to set up a **PERIMETER** around the area of disturbance in order to control the movement of civilians and vehicles in and out of the area.

As a result of Watts and Detroit, police have taken a long second look at strategies and tactics for control of riot situations. We do not suggest that the mere setting up of a perimeter is sufficient police action. The police must **ENTER** the perimeter and perform their functions **WITHIN** the area. This includes **SHOW OF FORCE** and the **USE OF FORCE** necessary to impress upon rioters that they have nothing to gain by continuing their activities. In some cities, police action was too limited; in others, overwhelming. Just how much force is sufficient is usually based upon good law enforcement judgment and embraces experience not taught in books.

Street tactics have to be developed to meet situations that arise. These change, just as the cause of individual riots change, and the police must change with them. Where control techniques appear to work, they should be refined and continued; where they fail, they should be discarded.

If the disturbance is a large one, such as happened in Newark, Detroit, Watts etc., it is necessary to set up a **Staging Area**, designated by the commanding officer, for the collection, storage, and distribution of material needed by the police to quell the riot.

This area may also be utilized as a temporary storage area for looted material recovered during the riot and for impounding of vehicles seized.

Since riots, at least until now, have been infrequent, the procedures police have employed in shifting from the normal routine must be clearly defined and underwritten by effective training programs which include periodic exercises. Flexibility is the key since procedures will vary depending on the size and severity of the unusual occurrence, i.e., "riot."

Let us return for a moment to the **Emergency Control Center** and see how it should be staffed. (The following guideline is recommended by the IACP, which has done a great service to police departments throughout the country in their comprehensive study of riot control procedures).

1. Commander.
2. Executive Officer.
3. Intelligence Section.
4. Personnel Section.
5. Procurement Section.
6. Press Relations Section.
7. Routing Officer.
8. Situation Report Officer.
9. Messengers.
10. Radio Operators.
11. Map Officer.
12. Journal Clerk.

The advantage of ECC, of course, is that in the event of two or more unusual occurrences, i.e. a "civil disturbance" which is involved with "guerilla" activities, control can be more readily established and managed, and the department and auxiliary resources more effectively allocated. The Field Commanders may then have the luxury of concentrating their efforts in handling the particular problem to which they are assigned and do not have to concern themselves with unassociated problems.

Intelligence Functions

These are perhaps the most important in assessing the overall situation. This involves prior accomplishments, and the perceptive chief will have developed an **Intelligence Unit** long before the unusual occurrence which will furnish him with material upon which he can act. In subversive activities and racially tense situations members of these units can, and usually do, penetrate the perimeter to discover new developments.

Communications

Equally important with the Intelligence functions is adequate communications. The rapidity with which a commander can communicate with his field commanders may determine the success or failure of perimeter containment. Helicopters, used judiciously, can be immeasurably helpful here. In Watts, the use of a local TV station's helicopter enabled the command post to determine where the action within the perimeter was localized, and rumors were squelched before they had a chance to take root.

In the event of an unusual disturbance, each department should have worked out a method of

alerting its off-duty members of a **Tactical Alert**. This also applies to **ON-DUTY** officers, and it permits the controlled redistribution of personnel from the entire town or city to meet the needs of the moment.

Press Relations

In the majority of instances, relations between the police and the press in most areas are good. In riot situations, it has recently happened that police have abdicated responsibility by allowing members of the working press to roam at will within the riot area. In many cases this has resulted in injury to the press personnel. A **Press Relations Section** should be established at the ECC and handled by a member of the department who has good judgment and experience in dealing with the press. They should not be given hand-outs which do not reflect the current situation as the commander sees it. This will prevent the circulation of rumors which only make the police position more difficult. Again, policies of fairness and good judgment are necessary ingredients in dealing with members of a highly individualistic and competitive profession. Good press relations, however, should never include abdication of police responsibility in restoring order during a riot.

Snipers

Last, but not least, in the concern of any police department is the control of snipers who represent the most dangerous focal point in the polarization of resentment against the police. Snipers not only represent a danger to the police, but also to fire personnel who are responding to alarms caused by riot-induced arson. Perhaps the most effective counter-measure in use today consists of a small team of police. This team contains one "spotter", whose job it is to identify and localize the sniper; a "marksman" who can fire back and deal with the sniper; and two men to ride "shot-gun" to protect the group from peripheral harassment. Police and National Guard units in many cities have been criticized for indiscriminate firing against buildings which has caused much property damage. The police and National Guard units have, as a result, lost much prestige without effectively preventing the sniping. A well-disciplined team of sniper-hunters will solve this problem. Police departments should develop and practice this technique in the months ahead.

PROGRAMS IX & X

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The traffic accident investigator must play a variety of roles: police officer, traffic engineer, scientist, doctor, and attorney. Training provides him with the basic investigative tools of his profession, and experience teaches him to use those tools skillfully. He knows how to deal with emergency situations created by an accident; he knows how best to gather the impor-

tant facts and information concerning the accident; he knows how to analyze the facts and information, once gathered, to learn how the accident happened, why it happened, and how to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The following material suggests the breadth of this field. It will be necessary to adapt the methods and procedures recommended in this outline to your local ordinances and the regulations of your own department. The **Traffic Accident Investigator's Manual for Police**, published by the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, explains all of these topics in detail. It is one of the standard texts in this area and is an invaluable aid to any police department in planning and carrying out their traffic accident investigation procedures.

A. Preparation helps you to avoid mistakes in investigation and to use your time most efficiently.

1. Know your department policies: the territory you are to cover, how far you should go in investigating minor accidents, report requirements, accessory duties (i.e. when to arrest or issue citations), and any other pertinent regulations.
2. Training is an important, perhaps indispensable, part of preparation for investigation.
 - a. Professional training is valuable if you have the opportunity to obtain it.
 - b. Try to gain as much experience as possible on your own (e.g. you can run practice tests to observe the effects of skidding or draw field sketches and scale diagrams to familiarize yourself with their use).
 - c. An effective investigator develops proper habits and attitudes. He learns to be specific, to distinguish fact from opinion, to observe carefully, and to record information as quickly as possible to guard against lapse of memory.
3. Equipment should be placed in the car so that you know where it is at all times and should be kept in working condition. Basic traffic accident investigation equipment includes a fire extinguisher, flares, first-aid kit, tape measure, flashlight, camera, and pen and paper for records.
4. Special knowledge.
 - a. A thorough knowledge of the streets and highways in your area allows you to get to the scene of the accident quickly and to select the most desirable detour routes if detours are necessary.
 - b. It is essential to know the location of hospitals, towing agencies, and fire departments in your territory.

c. At times, you may have to call on certain specialists such as photographers, surveyors, or highway engineers to help you in the investigation. It is useful to know the names and addresses of these people should you have need of their services.

5. A file system gives you a record of past accidents and provides material for future reference. Some officers have found it useful to maintain an active file for accidents currently under investigation and a permanent file for reports once the investigation has been completed. The permanent file should be kept for five years and, in special cases, longer.

B. On first learning of the accident, get as much information as you can from the dispatcher; the location of the accident, its severity, etc., and form a mental picture of the scene. Get to the scene quickly and safely.

1. Anticipate the problems that might confront you on your arrival (e.g. traffic congestion or the need for an ambulance).
2. Notice the time of day. If it is dark, you may have to place flares to warn approaching traffic of danger.
3. Divide the work between yourself and your partner on the way to the accident.
4. Approach the scene from the direction most likely to be open. You can observe road and weather conditions as you drive.
5. Park safely once you arrive and in a place where you can get away without unnecessary delay. If the accident has occurred at night, you may want to park so that your headlights illuminate the scene, taking care not to blind oncoming traffic.

C. When you arrive at the scene of the accident certain emergency measures will have to be taken immediately.

1. Firstly, keep the accident from becoming worse. Look for any hazards in the area and take action to deal with them.
 - a. Fire is one of the most common dangers at any accident scene because of running gasoline and oil.
 - 1.) Make certain that no one in the area is smoking.
 - 2.) Turn off the ignition, lights, or any other electrical system of the car and remove the keys.
 - 3.) Disconnect the battery cable if possible.
 - 4.) Be wary of starting the vehicle's engine since gasoline may accumulate under the hood. Also, check for

"towing leaks" when the vehicle is being removed.

- 5.) If fire breaks out, try to isolate it. For instance, you can detach a truck cab from its trailer to lessen the threat of fire spreading.
 - 6.) Try to discover the cause of any fire. Arson is always a possibility since some people might want to collect insurance for the loss.
 - b. Trucks often carry dangerous substances such as acids, poisons, or explosives. Often, there are instructions in the cab which will tell you what to do in case of accidents.
 - c. If electric lines are down near or touching the vehicles, keep people inside and notify the power company at once.
2. Do what you can for the injured.
- a. Keep them warm, treat for shock, and stop any arterial bleeding.
 - b. Telephone a doctor or a hospital immediately if care is required.
 - c. Move the injured if they are in any danger, but remember that great caution is necessary in handling injured people.
 - d. Scan the area for other injured parties. People can be thrown great distances by the force of the impact.
3. Traffic and crowd control.
- a. Keep people away from the area both for their own protection and to preserve evidence. Be courteous but firm in your requests.
 - b. Remove minor obstructions in the road and plant warning devices such as flags or flares to mark major obstructions.
 - c. Avoid traffic pile-ups and discourage parking since congestion can cause additional accidents.
 - d. If a detour is necessary, choose an appropriate route, considering such things as the width of the road, weak bridges, and tunnel clearances. Try to select a road to the right in order to avoid left turns.
 - e. Call for additional help if you need it. Civilians can be used in emergencies and will usually be willing to help if you ask them politely.
4. One of your duties as a police officer is to protect the property of individuals involved in an accident. Take steps to guard against the possibility of theft, especially in the case of spilled truck cargoes.

- a. Remove the keys from all vehicles involved and collect any valuables that you see lying on the ground.
- b. In the case of spilled truck cargoes, telephone the trucking company and inform them of the situation.
- c. Make an inventory of all the articles you collect to guard yourself against theft charges later.

5. You may have to move vehicles yourself if they present a hazard or if the occupants are dead.

- a. Telephone a professional towing service to do the work unless an emergency exists.
- b. Mark all important positions and take photographs before the vehicle is moved. This is good practice since additional damage may occur in towing.
- c. Obtain the driver's authorization before moving the vehicle if possible. If the driver is unavailable, remove the vehicle and place it in storage. **Under no condition should you authorize any repairs to be made.** You can be held personally liable for these unauthorized expenses.

D. Gathering the facts is the heart of traffic accident investigation. You should be as objective and specific as possible. If a witness tells you that a vehicle was traveling "very fast", find out whether that means 40 or 50 miles per hour. Later, verify evidence by cross-checking it. Compare the various statements you are given with each other and with any physical evidence that you discover.

1. Interviewing; the initial unrehearsed story of drivers, passengers and witnesses is important in investigation because people have less time to falsify their testimony and forget details. People should be interviewed individually to avoid distractions and cross-suggestion. Later, you might want to bring them together to compare their versions of the incident.

- a. Firstly, locate the driver and identify him. Learn his name, address, his driver's license number, and the registration number of the vehicle. If the driver is not the owner of the vehicle, ask him for this information. Also, inform him of any reports that he is required by law to file.

1.) When you examine his driver's license, look for any restriction attached to it and notice whether he has complied with them.

2.) Check to see whether the vehicle is

stolen, especially if you suspect anything out of the ordinary.

- 3.) Observe and note important facts about the driver's condition. There may be alcohol on his breath, he may be ill or dazed, or he may have trouble hearing. These kinds of facts can tell you important things about the cause of an accident. For example, if a man is in a coma following the accident, he may be suffering from a diabetic seizure, and this seizure may have caused him to lose control of his car.
 - a. In case you suspect alcohol, administer the drunkenness test that your state permits.
 - b. If you discover any abnormal condition that you feel is important, report the information to the state licensing authorities so that they can take appropriate measures.
 - 4.) Get the important facts concerning the accident. Try to discover the exact time and place it occurred and what events led up to the collision (i.e. the vehicle's intended course, the evasive action taken by the driver, etc.)
 - b. After interviewing the drivers, seek any witnesses in the area.
 - 1.) Do not use the word "witness" when asking people for information. It tends to make them wary. Ask questions, such as, "Did anyone here see anything important?"
 - 2.) Interview witnesses as soon as possible because they are likely to leave the scene once their interest is satisfied.
 - 3.) Try to determine if the people who volunteer as witnesses are disinterested. If they are friends or relations of either driver, they are apt to be biased in what they say.
 - 4.) In the case of passengers, find out their exact position in the vehicle at the moment of collision and what they were doing just prior to the accident.
 - 5.) Witnesses are not legally required to give you information. Even in the case of a driver, all he normally must tell you is his name, address, and vehicle registration number.
 2. Road and weather conditions are factors in reconstructing what occurred at the scene. Vehicle conditions are also important.
 - a. Remember that unfavorable conditions are not always the cause of an accident. A man who falls asleep at the wheel and runs off the road during a rainstorm might have had the same accident under perfect weather conditions.
 - b. Observe and analyze the importance of all conditions surrounding the accident: glare, view obstructions, ice, smoke or fog, curbs, holes, sudden narrowing of the road, ineffective warning signs, etc.
 - c. If you discover any dangerous road conditions, notify the proper authorities so that they can take corrective action.
 - d. The vehicles involved in the accident may have experienced an equipment failure. If possible, test the brakes, windshield wipers, headlights, taillights, and so forth.
 3. Physical evidence is always valuable in traffic accident investigation, particularly if there are no witnesses or if the driver is dead.
 - a. Skidmarks, the distribution of debris or liquids, broken roadside objects, gouges in the road, scratches, and ruts are all useful clues telling you what happened before and during the accident.
 - b. Field sketches, diagrams, and photographs are all helpful in recording the position of physical evidence. These steps should be taken before any of the evidence has been moved. If any object must be moved, mark its position with chalk so that you can later locate it.
 - c. Examination of the vehicles involved is an essential step in your investigative procedures. Record the damage done to the vehicle and make basic notations (i.e. seat belts, speedometer reading, gearshift position, and dashboard and windshield damage).
- E. Recording and reporting of the facts gathered.
1. Initially, you should record all short-lived information. Things such as gasoline evaporate quickly and skidmarks can be destroyed by passing cars.
 2. Field sketches, maps, diagrams, and photographs are various means of preserving information. These articles should be marked so that you can identify them and their contents easily.
 3. It is good practice in all serious accidents, or accidents involving the possibility of prosecution, to take written statements from witnesses.
 - a. If there is adequate time, try to convince

the witness to write out the statement himself. He may be reluctant to do so if there are people near, so isolate him from others during questioning.

- b. Obtain the witness's signature on the statement if he is willing. A signature adds authenticity to the statement if it should be necessary to use it as evidence at a trial.

- 4. All traffic accidents should be reported whether investigated or not. There is pressing need for information in this area on the part of the state agencies, legislatures, and police departments themselves.

- a. A report form is a valuable tool to the investigator. It helps you to remember the essential investigative steps. The standard report form may be obtained from: National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
- b. Be as specific as the circumstances will allow. You can use additional forms if necessary to complete your report.
- c. Certain information contained in these reports will be confidential. Know your department policies regarding this point.

F. Learning what happened at the accident scene.

- 1. After the facts have been gathered, analysis begins. In difficult cases you may have to call on expert technical assistance to help you perform this function.
- 2. Consider carefully how the pieces of the puzzle fit together. Don't jump to conclusions. Common sense will dictate the obvious possibilities to you.
- 3. Generally speaking, you will have to know something about the following five subjects in order to reconstruct the accident:
 - a. the intended course of the vehicle;
 - b. damage details;
 - c. marks on the road or fixed objects;
 - d. the final position of the vehicle;
 - e. and some scientific principles (e.g. mechanics and psychology).
- 4. Legal responsibilities grow out of the specialized knowledge you gain through your investigative activities. If prosecutions or civil litigation results from an accident that you have investigated, you may be called upon to testify in court. Prepare your testimony by reviewing the notes, measurements, and sketches you have made of the accident. Bring your notes with you to the courtroom and refer to them to refresh your memory if the judge grants you permission to do so.

G. Hit-and-run investigation. This field is really a special area of criminal investigation.

- 1. If you check for the driver of the vehicle involved and cannot locate him, suspect a hit-run situation. Do not accept at face value the word of someone who tells you that the driver has gone to a hospital. You may lose valuable time if this report proves erroneous.
- 2. Again, as in traffic accident investigation, gather as much information as you can, and relay it to headquarters quickly.
 - a. Secure a description of the vehicle and its occupants.
 - b. Collect broken parts of the vehicle if they have been left at the scene. Also, collect any paint samples that have been left behind.
 - c. Try to discover the direction in which the vehicle was traveling when last seen.
 - d. Do not ignore traffic accident investigation in a hit-run case.
 - e. During your on-scene investigation following the accident, check any suspicious person in the area. Hit-run drivers often return to the scene to see what has happened.
- 3. At headquarters, preparation is the key to successful apprehension of hit-run drivers.
 - a. Note reports of all stolen cars, and record the time these reports are received. People involved in hit-run accidents often seek to escape responsibility by claiming that their car has been stolen.
 - b. Check all auto repair shops in the vicinity for vehicles answering the description of the hit-run car, or for vehicles with the kind of damage you suspect the hit-run car suffered.
 - c. If parts of an automobile have fallen loose at the scene, contact parts suppliers to discover whether anyone has purchased or sought to purchase the specific parts lost.
- 4. Patrol cars should check the back alleys and garages in case the car has been abandoned because of heavy damage. Watch roads leading out-of-state if the car has license plates from another state. Also, contact doctors and hospitals if you suspect that the hit-run driver received any injuries in the accident.
- 5. Once the vehicle is located, make a preliminary check to match it with the information you have received from witnesses and physical evidence at the scene.
 - a. If your preliminary check confirms your

suspicious, then go to your supervisor who can arrange to impound the car.

- b. If the vehicle is located soon after the accident, place your hand on the engine and muffler to see if they are warm. If so, the vehicle has been used recently.
 - c. If the vehicle is not found until days have elapsed, it may have new paint or repairs in places where the hit-run car was damaged. Try to find out where these repairs were made. The shop that did the work may still have the original parts of the damaged car.
6. After you have examined the car, talk to the suspected driver. Keep watch on him after questioning in case he tries to remove the vehicle.
- a. Familiarize yourself with the suspect's driving habits, his accident record, his reputation for drinking, and any other relevant information.
 - b. The interrogation of hit-run suspects follows the general rules of interrogation. One thing to watch for in particular is the perfect alibi. People rarely can account quickly and accurately for all of their time on a given day.
- c. If the suspect claims that his car was stolen, discover the time of the theft and find out whether he reported the car as stolen. Cross-check this information with the report file at headquarters. Examine the car for evidence of theft, such as broken windows, or jumped wires.
 - d. The suspect may claim that he did not know that an accident occurred, that he did not believe anyone was injured, or that he did in fact stop and identify himself to someone at the scene.
1. If the car was heavily damaged in the accident, his claim of not knowing that an accident occurred will not hold up.
 2. If the driver claims that he did not think anyone was injured or that he did in fact stop and identify himself, ask him whether he obtained the name of the driver, the registration number or the license number of the other car, etc. If he has none of this information, it is unlikely that he is telling the truth.

NOTES

TELEVISION BROADCAST SCHEDULE: "LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE"

LOCATION	TV CHANNEL	DAY	TIME	Scientific Aids To Investigation	To Be Announced	Accident Investigation Part I	Part II
Boston, Mass.	WGBX (44)	Thur.	3:00 PM	Mar. 28	Apr. 25	May 23	June 27
	WGBH (2)	"	"	"	"	"	"
	* WGBH (2)	"	11:00 PM	"	"	"	"
	* WGBX (44)	Fri.	9:00 AM	Mar. 29	Apr. 26	May 24	June 28
	* WGBX (44)	"	10:00 PM	"	"	"	"
Augusta, Me.	WCBB (10)	Thur.	3:00 PM	Mar. 28	Apr. 25	May 23	June 27
Orono, Me.	WMEB (12)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Presque Isle, Me.	WMEM (10)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Calais, Me.	WMED (13)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Durham, N. H.	WENH (11)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Littleton, N. H.	WLED (49)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Burlington, Vt.	WETK (33)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Rutland, Vt.	WVER (28)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Windsor, Vt.	WTVA (41)	"	"	"	"	"	"
St. Johnsbury, Vt.	WTVB (20)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Hartford, Conn.	WEDH (24)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Norwich, Conn.	WEDN (53)	"	"	"	"	"	"
Bridgeport, Conn.	WEDB (49)	"	"	"	"	"	"
New Haven, Conn.	Channel 71	"	"	"	"	"	"
Providence, R. I.	WSBE (36)	"	"	"	"	"	"
	* WSBE (36)	Wed.	6:00 PM	Apr. 10	May 8	June 5	July 10
Maine New Hampshire & Vermont							
Poland Spring, Me.*	WMTW (8)	Thur.	7:30 AM	Apr. 18	May 16	June 13	July 18

* Pre-recorded broadcast

TELEPHONE INSTRUCTIONS

If you wish to ask a question of a panelist during a live broadcast, place a collect call to (Area Code 617) 491-5600. This number is being made available to police agencies only.

A special switchboard and corps of operators will be set to handle calls between 3:00 and 4:00 PM on the Last Thursday of every month. If you should get a busy signal, please call again.

You can, if you wish, request that your name not be used on the air. However, since the calls are made collect, we request that you identify yourself and your police affiliation so that we can be sure that the telephone number is used only by police.

This service has been set up for the use and benefit of police officers. We hope that you'll take full advantage of it.

AN INVITATION TO THE LIVE BROADCASTS

Members of law enforcement agencies are cordially invited to the live broadcast on the last Thursday of the month in the WGBH/WGBX - TV Studios. Those wishing to attend a live broadcast are requested to call (Area Code 617) 864-6400 or write to the Law Enforcement Training Project for reservations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROJECT FILMS

Sixteen millimeter films of each of the LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE programs are available to law enforcement agencies on a free loan basis. The films will be available six weeks after the original broadcast date. See page one for details.

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125 Western Avenue
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Tel: (Area Code 617) 864-6400

Project Director & Executive Producer:
Producer:
TV Director:
Researcher/Production Assistant:
Researcher/Writer:
Secretary:
Film Requests;

James P. Kelly
Stephen A. Gilford
Peter Downey
Grayce Papps
Gerald Lange
Margot Childs
Marie Foskett

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