



**OUR WHY?** To partner with local governments so that  
Texas communities are **STRONGER TOGETHER**



# Safe Police Vehicle Operations



# Our Core Values

- **Public Service:** Serving the public good – for the benefit of local governments and their tax-paying citizens.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Responsibly managing our members' pooled funds for the protection of their financial stability.
- **Operational Excellence:** Delivering excellent member service in all components of our risk financing and loss prevention services.
- **Integrity:** Serving with honesty, integrity and professionalism.



# Our Coverages



**Workers'  
Compensation**



**Liability**



**Property**



**Cyber Liability**



**Special Risk**



# Law Enforcement Outreach Consultant

- Captain Joseph Florance (Retired)
  - Rockwall Police Department – 22 years
    - Patrol Captain
    - Lieutenant - Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Admin. Services
    - SWAT Commander – 5 Years
    - Sergeant – Patrol & Traffic
    - SWAT Operator – Entry Team, Sniper Team, Crisis Negotiations
    - Master Peace Officer
    - TCOLE Instructor
    - Accident Reconstructionist
- Master's Degree in Human Resources Management
  - Tarleton State University
- Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration
  - Tarleton State University



# Law Enforcement Outreach Consultant

- Chief Chase Stapp (ret)
  - TMLIRP LE Outreach Consultant
  - San Marcos (TX) Police Department – 27 years
    - Officer through Chief
    - Chief – 5 years
    - Commander, Hays County Narcotics Task Force
    - Master Peace Officer
    - Licensed TCOLE Instructor
    - Certified Public Manager (CPM)
  - City of San Marcos – 5 years
    - Assistant City Manager, Public Safety



**Follow along:**

<https://tmlirp.org/risk-management/training>



# Learning Objectives

- Increase awareness of issues where we are held liable, injured and/or killed
- Understand how decisions affect our ability to reduce injury, death and liability issues
- Identify problem areas in emergency vehicle operations

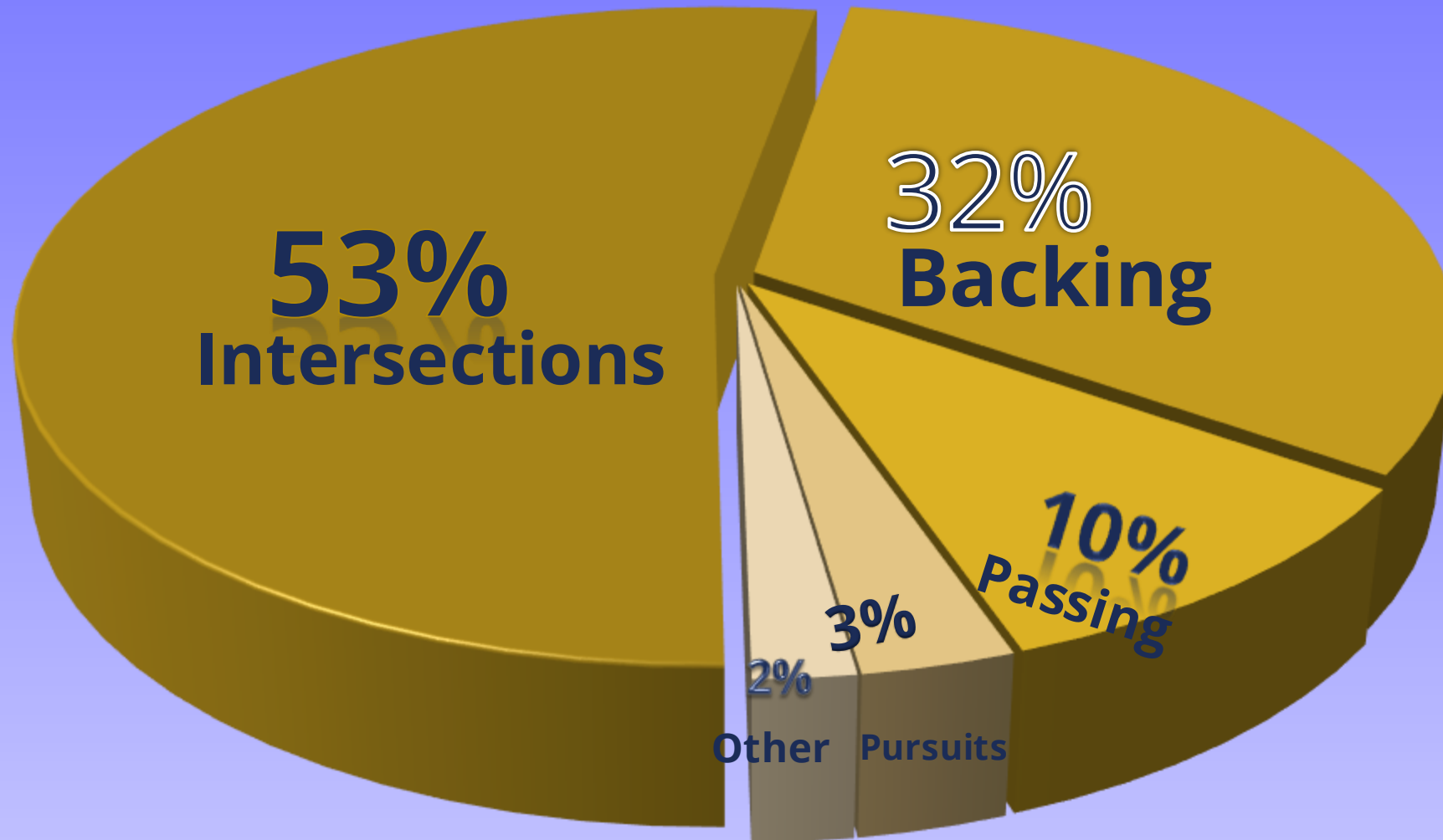




# Question?

- **How many of you know someone who has had an accident while on patrol?**
- **Was the collision at an intersection, backing in a parking lot or in areas with low speed?**

# Where do Law Enforcement accidents occur?





41 Action NEWS

**BREAKING  
NEWS LEADER**

**41** Action NEWS

**6:03 68°**

# Motor vehicle related losses over a 3-year period

• <b>Worker's Compensation</b>	<b>\$4.6</b>
• <b>Liability</b>	<b>\$11.7</b>
• <b>Physical Damage</b>	<b><u>\$6.2</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22.5 Million</b>



# **What major cause of officer deaths has ranked in the top five for the past ten years?**

- 1. Health risks**
- 2. Killed by suspect - firearm**
- 3. Suicide**
- 4. Emergency vehicle operations**

# 2007-2021

## Roadway Related Line of Duty Deaths

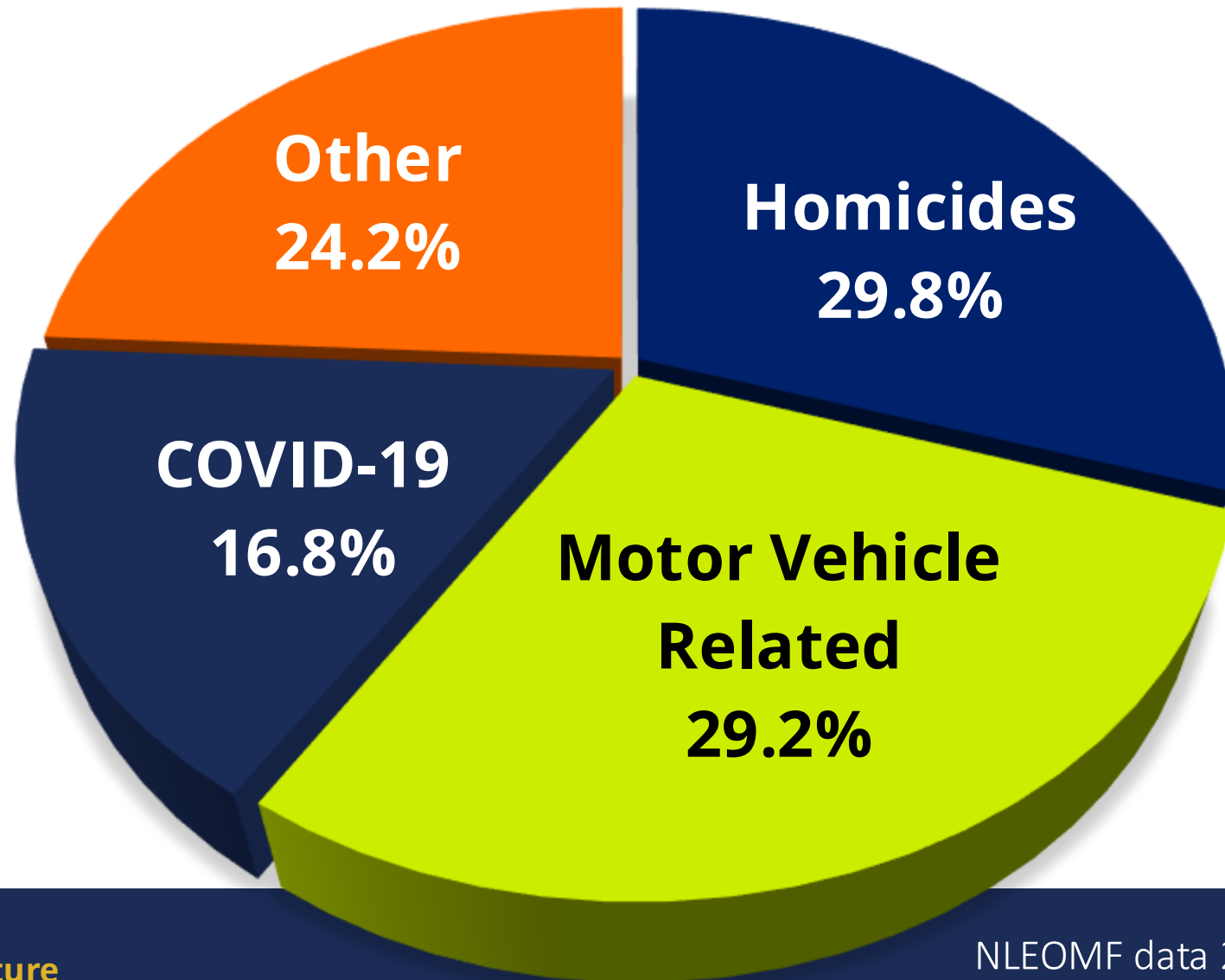
<b>Crashes</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Struck by</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>842</b>

# OFFICERS INJURED

**34,700**

**111 PER WEEK**

# Line-of-Duty Fatalities From 2007 to 2021





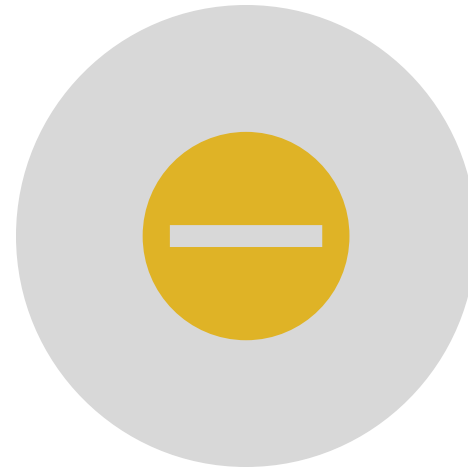
## Perceived Likelihood of Officers being Seriously Injured or Killed by Given Risk



# Is there an exemption for Emergency Vehicle Operators **NOT** to wear their seatbelt?



YES

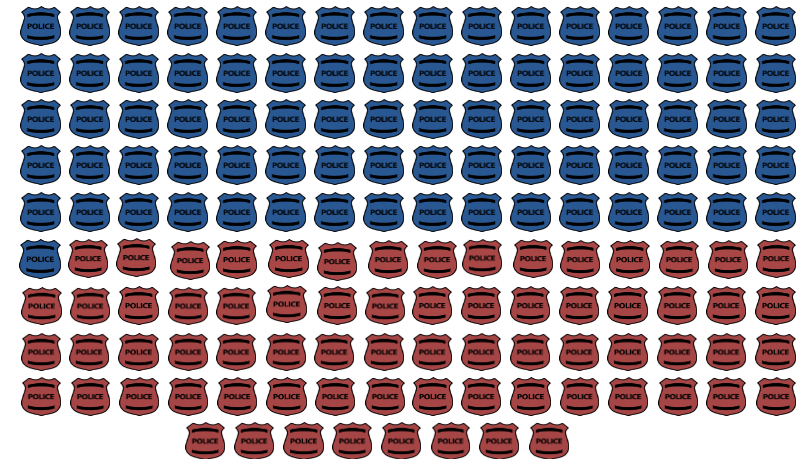


NO

# There is no exemption for Emergency Vehicle Operators to NOT wear their seatbelt!!!



Between 2012 and 2016,  
152 officers died in fatal auto crashes



**71** of them were NOT wearing their  
seat belt.

The National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, in partnership with NHTSA, is working to reduce traffic related line of duty deaths.

<http://www.nleomf.org/facts/nhtsa-officer-safety-initiatives/>





Building for the Future

# **As You Come to a Stop**



**Swimming out of your  
seat belt**





**Include seat  
belt wear in  
training and  
tactical  
exercises**

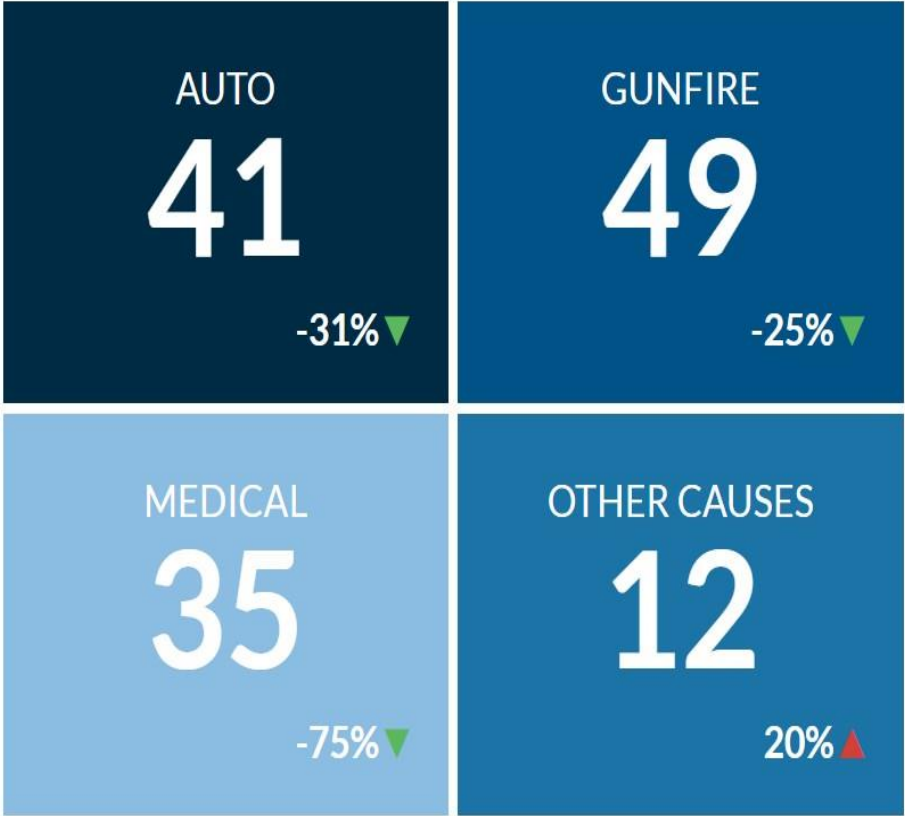


# National LOD Deaths 2023

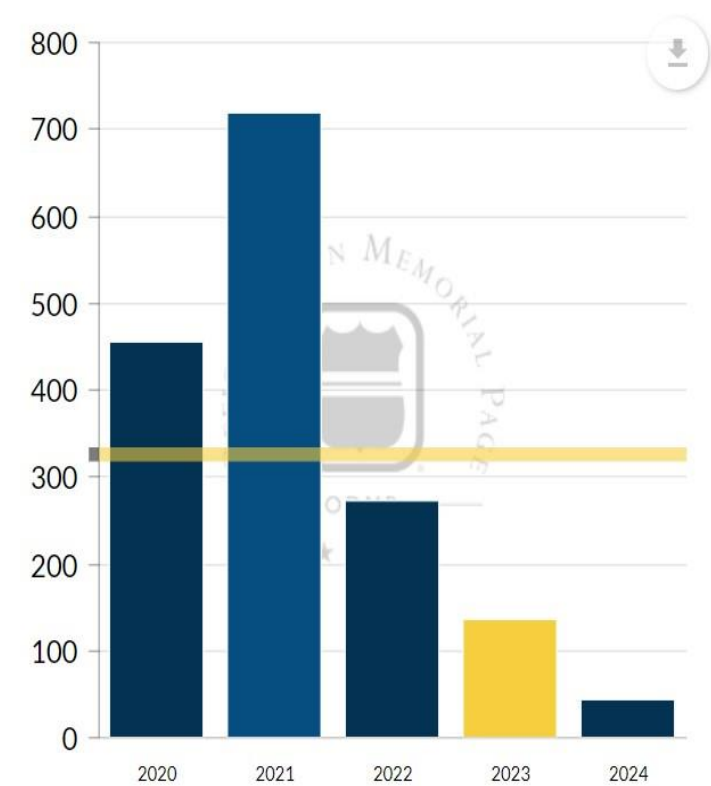
LODDs at a Glance



Leading Causes of Death



LODDs by Year (2020 - 2024)



Officer Down Memorial Page



Building for the Future



DRIVE  
CAREFULLY  
WE CAN WAIT

# **Where do we get our authority to operate an emergency vehicle?**

- 1. Penal Code**
- 2. Code of Criminal Procedures**
- 3. Texas Transportation Code**
- 4. Agency Policies**

# Where do we get our authority to operate an emergency vehicle?

1. Penal Code
2. Code of Criminal Procedures
3. Texas Transportation Code
4. Agency Policies

# **Texas Transportation Code 546.001**

**In operating an authorized emergency vehicle, the operator may:**

- **Exceed the posted speed limit**
- **Proceed past a red light or stop sign without stopping**
- **Pass in a no passing zone**



# Texas Transportation Code Section 546.001 applies only when the operator is:

- Responding to an emergency call
- Pursuing an actual or suspected violator of the law
- Responding to, but not from a fire alarm
- Directing or diverting traffic for public safety purposes
- Conducting police escort as authorized by law and policy



# Texas Transportation Code Section 546.003

## Audible or Visual Signals Required

Except as provided by Section 546.004, the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle engaging in conduct permitted by Section 546.001 **shall** use, at the **discretion of the operator**, audible **or** visual signals that meet the pertinent requirements of Section 547.305 and 547.702.



# **TTC Sec. 546.005 Duty of Care**

**This chapter does not relieve the operator of an emergency vehicle from:**

**The duty to operate the vehicle with appropriate regard for the safety of all persons; or the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.**



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



April 2009

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin



Pursuit Driving

**Out of 10,000, how many times do you think officers answered that getting to the scene quickly made a difference or could have made a difference?**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



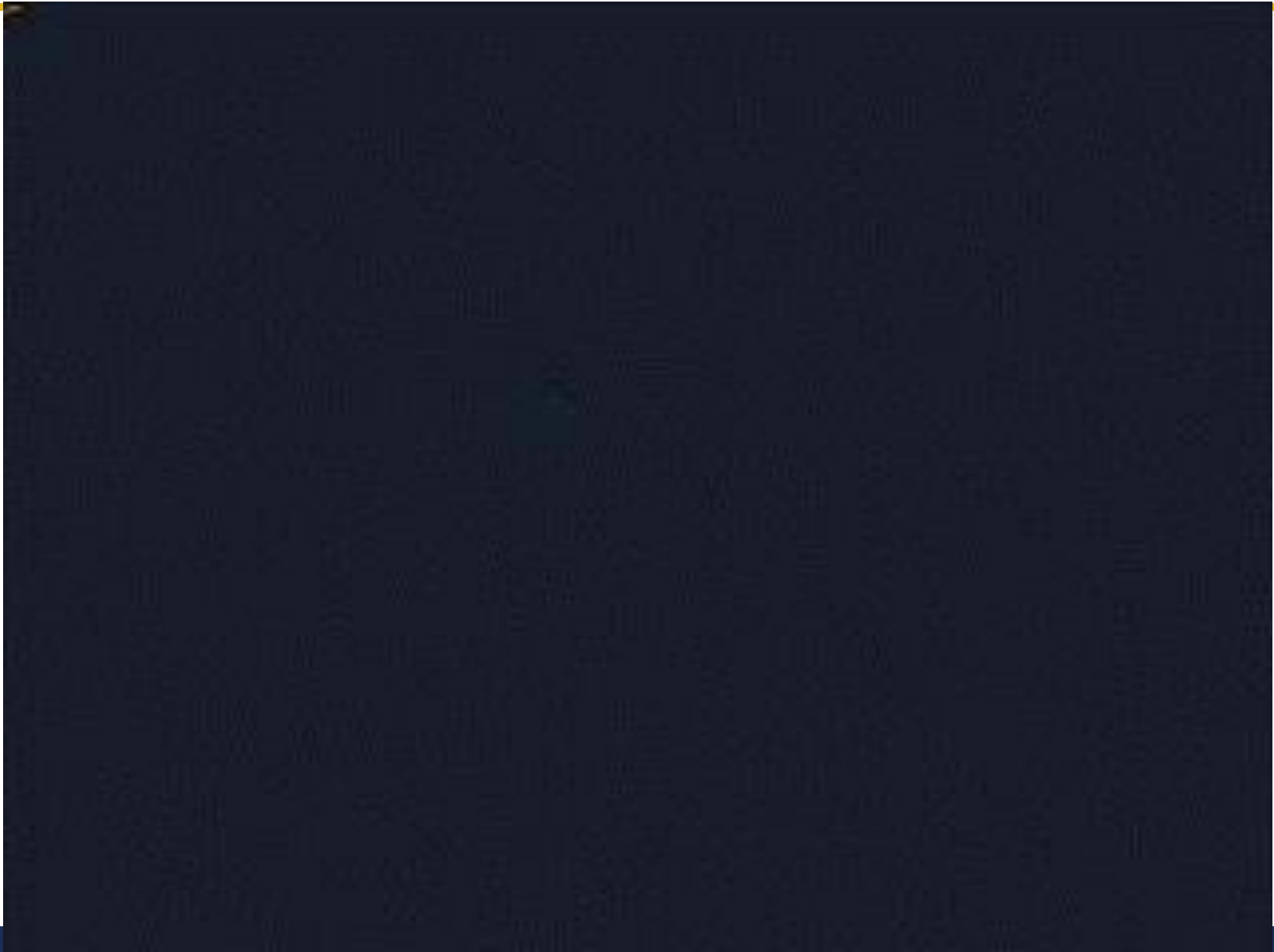
April 2009

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin



Pursuit Driving

**1 out of  
10,000**



**Building for the Future**







A photograph of a police car that has rolled over onto its side on a city street at night. The car is white with blue and black markings, including the word 'POLICE' on the side. Yellow police tape is strung across the scene. In the background, other emergency vehicles with flashing lights and a person are visible. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and the emergency vehicle lights.

**In 53% of fatal crashes,  
officers were**

**"an officer needs  
assistance"** calls

**(NLEOMF 2010 -2014)**

Dallas Police Department

Date 10-17-2008

Time 19:42:00

Unit 5033

Unit Speed 058

Dir NE





# **Treat Speed as a Tool**

# What is your department's pursuit policy?



# **Pursuit Policies**

Texas Police Chiefs Association  
Best Practices Recognition Program

# Least Restrictive

- Any law enforcement officer in an authorized emergency vehicle may initiate a vehicular pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. Pursuit may also be justified if the officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to escape, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

# **More Restrictive: Felonies and Jailable Misdemeanors**

- Any law enforcement officer in an authorized emergency vehicle may initiate a vehicular pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intention to avoid apprehension for a felony or misdemeanor that would result in jail by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. Pursuit may also be justified if the officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.
- Pursuits will not be initiated for class C traffic offenses alone.

# More Restrictive: Only Felonies

- Any law enforcement officer in an authorized emergency vehicle may initiate a vehicular pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intentions to avoid apprehension for a felony by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. Pursuit may also be justified if the officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.
- Pursuits will not be initiated for traffic offenses or misdemeanors alone.

# **Most Restrictive: Only Violent Felonies**

- Any law enforcement officer in an authorized emergency vehicle may initiate a vehicular pursuit when the suspect exhibits the intentions to avoid apprehension for a violent felony by refusing to stop when properly directed to do so. Pursuit may also be justified if the officer reasonably believes that the suspect, if allowed to flee, would present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.
- Pursuits will not be initiated for traffic offenses, misdemeanors, or property felonies.



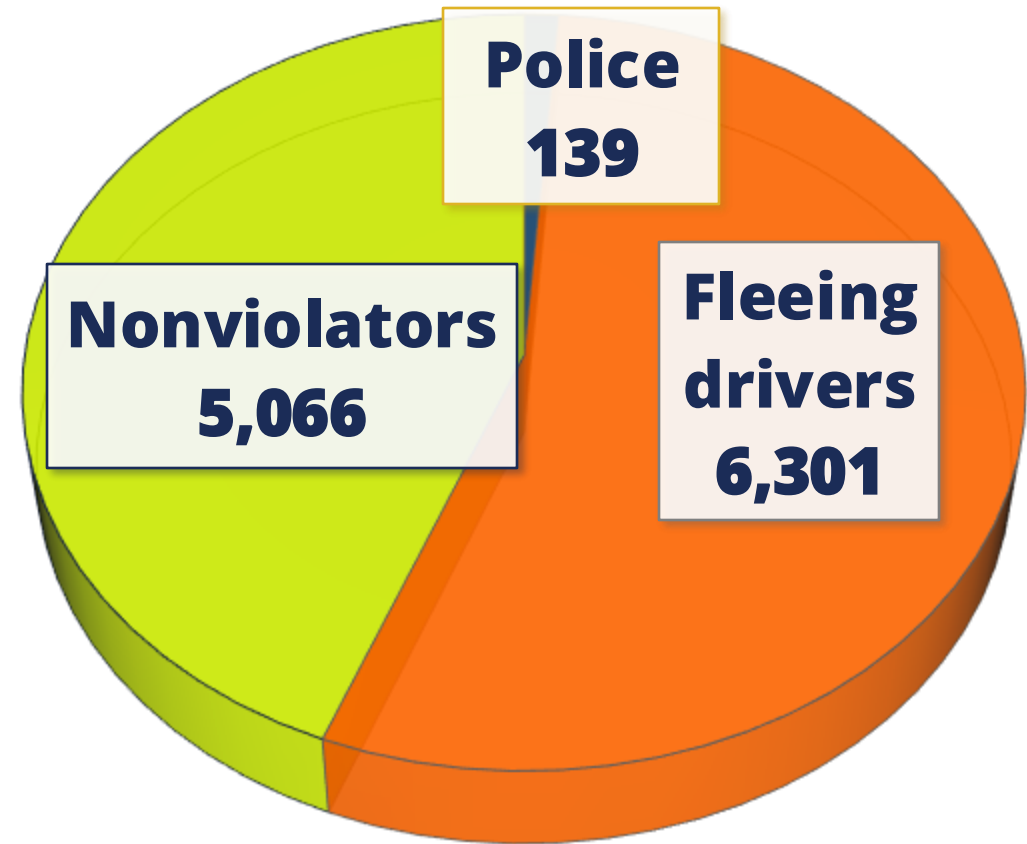
# Consistent across all:

In deciding whether to initiate pursuit, the officer shall take into consideration:

- road, weather and environmental conditions
- population density and vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- the relative performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle and the vehicle being pursued
- the seriousness of the offense
- the presence of other persons in the police vehicle at the time of the offense
- the presence of other persons in the police vehicle.
- and...The decision to initiate pursuit must be based on the pursuing officer's conclusion that the immediate danger to the officer and the public created by the pursuit is less than the immediate or potential danger to the public should the suspect remain at large.

# From 1979 to 2013, 11,506 people were killed during pursuits

- NHTSA data, reported by USA Today



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation



April 2009

# FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin



Pursuit Driving

**40%  
of  
Pursuits  
Result in  
Crashes**

# LEO Near Miss Reporting System



**DECISION MAKING**



**71%**

# PURSUITS



**Immediate  
Apprehension**

**Risk to Public  
Safety**

**Risk to Officer  
Safety**

74 Mph in a posted 30 Mph Zone

Shall Stop at Red Light or Stop Sign

Supervisor

The diagram illustrates a vehicle accident scene. A vehicle, represented by a yellow icon with a green circle, is involved in a collision, resulting in a large fire. A blue circle highlights the vehicle's position. A red arrow points to the vehicle's green circle, and another red arrow points to a red light icon. A blue arrow points to the word "Supervisor". The scene is set at an intersection with a "74 Mph in a posted 30 Mph Zone" sign and a "Shall Stop at Red Light or Stop Sign" sign. A coffee cup icon is visible on the left, and a house icon is on the right.



# More Than One Emergency Vehicle

- Use caution at intersections
- The second emergency vehicle will not be expected by yielding traffic.
- Do not tail gate
- Allow the lead vehicle plenty of room to operate safely and stop



An emergency exists if there is a high probability of death or serious injury to an individual, or significant property loss, and action by an emergency vehicle operator MAY reduce the seriousness of the situation.



- *How much time can you really save in an average response?*
- *Is the increased risk worth the reward?*

# What is the average driver's reaction time?

- 1. 1 second
- 2. 1.6 seconds
- 3. 2 seconds
- 4. 2.5 second



# What is the average driver's reaction time?

- 1. 1 second
- 2. 1.6 seconds**
- 3. 2 seconds
- 4. 2.5 second



# How many feet per second does a vehicle travel at 60 MPH?

1. 100

2. 88

3. 78

4. 65





# How many feet per second does a vehicle travel at 60 MPH?

1. 100

2. 88

3. 78

4. 65







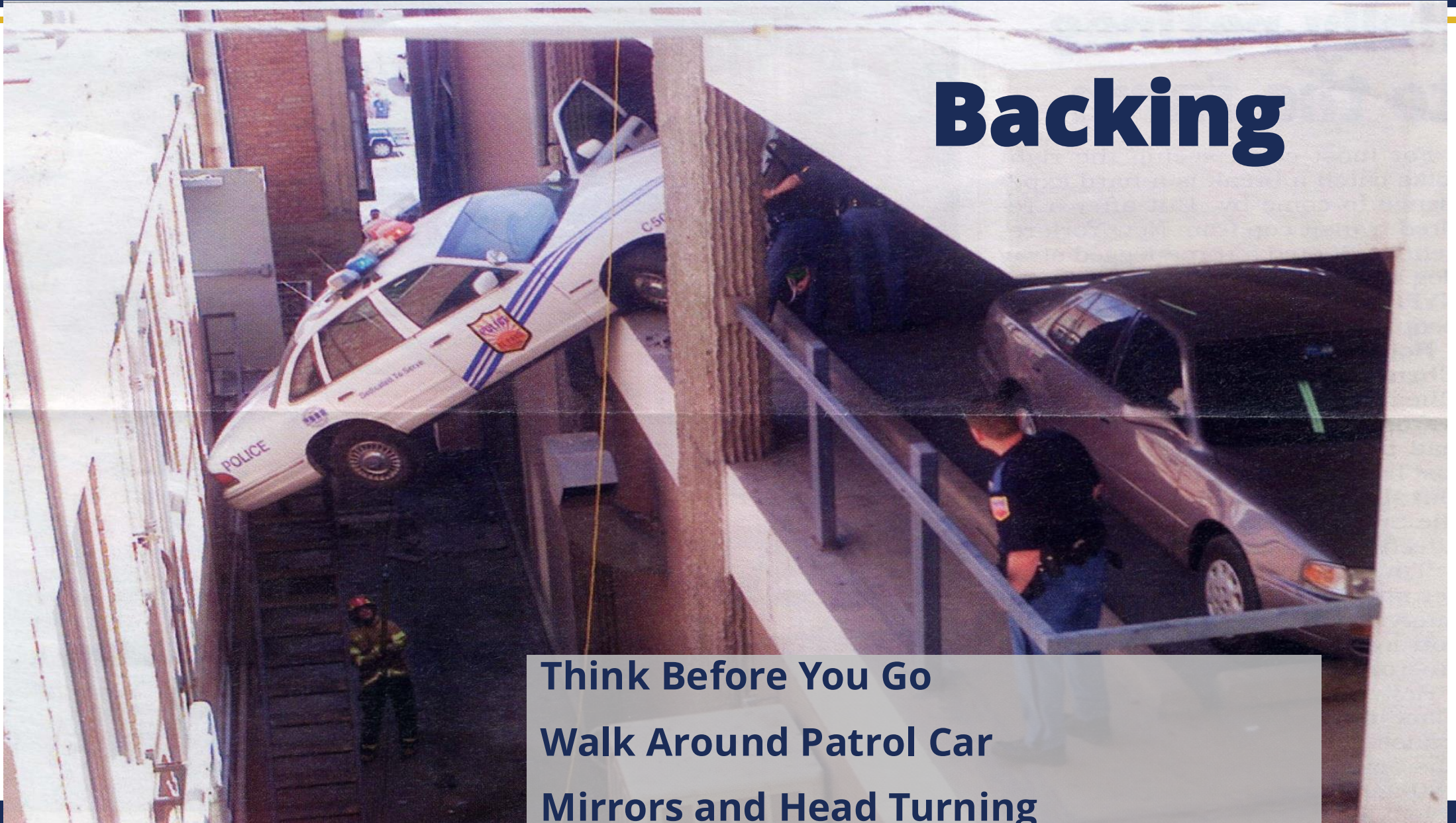
# FATIGUE







# Backing



**Think Before You Go  
Walk Around Patrol Car  
Mirrors and Head Turning  
Slow!!**



# Tires and Wheels

- **Manufactured Date**
- **Pressure**
- **Wear**
- **Temperature**



# Manufacture Date Code





# Where on your vehicle will you find the recommended tire pressure?

- 1.Side of the tire
- 2.Owners manual
- 3.Door jam
- 4.All of the above



# Where on your vehicle will you find the recommended tire pressure?

- 1.Side of the tire
- 2.Owners manual
- 3.Door jam
- 4.All of the above**



# How often is checking your tire pressure recommended?

1. Yearly
2. Monthly
3. Weekly
4. Daily



# How often is checking your tire pressure recommended?

1. Yearly
2. Monthly
3. Weekly
4. Daily

TPMS is your friend!





# Vehicle Inspections



## Check list

- ✓ ***Emergency Equipment***
- ✓ ***Tires***
- ✓ ***Backseat***
- ✓ ***Trunk***
- ✓ ***Undercarriage***
- ✓ ***Fluids & Belts***

# **In Conclusion**

**Return home safe  
every after every  
shift...**

**You are the operator**

**Approach Intersections with caution**

**Use your mirrors**

**Maintain a cushion of safety**

**Wear your seatbelt**

**Arrive safe to every call**

# Test Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT a learning objective for this course?
  - A. Increase awareness of issues where we are held liable, injured, and/or killed.
  - B. Understand how decisions affect our ability to reduce injury, death, and liability issues.
  - C. Identify problem areas in emergency vehicle operations.
  - D. Provide techniques for pursuing suspect vehicles.

**D**



# Test Questions

2. What percentage of law enforcement accidents occur at intersections?

- A. 32%
- B. 53%
- C. 3%
- D. 10%

**B**

# Test Questions

3. There is an exemption that allows law enforcement to not wear a seatbelt.

- A. True
- B. False

**B**

# Test Questions

4. In deciding whether to initiate a pursuit, the officer shall take into consideration:

- A. Road, weather and environmental conditions
- B. The seriousness of the offense
- C. The presence of other persons in the police vehicle at the time of the offense
- D. All of the above

**D**

# Test Questions

5. How many feet per second does a vehicle travel at 60 miles per hour?
- A. 60
  - B. 35
  - C. 88
  - D. 100

**C**



**The R.O.A.D. Ready is an initiative of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) to strengthen partnerships with our members and work towards increasing awareness of roadway exposures and the impacts losses have on our members.**



# Safe Police Vehicle Operations

