

Memorandum



DATE: June 12, 2009

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOC) Overview**

Attached is briefing material on the "Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOC) Overview" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, June 15, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan S. Evans".

Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

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Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council

Mary K. Suhm, City Manager

Deborah Watkins, City Secretary

Tom Perkins, City Attorney

Craig Kinton, City Auditor

Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge

Ramon F. Miguez, P.E., Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager

A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Forest E. Turner, Interim Assistant City Manager

Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer

Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council



Police Vehicle Operations Course (PVOOC) Overview

Public Safety Committee

June 15, 2009



PVOC HISTORY

- The training was created in 1989 in order to enhance driving skills to:
 - **Save Lives**
 - **Reduce Injuries**
 - **Reduce Damage to Vehicles and Property**
- It is currently being taught to supervisors, recruits, veteran officers and may be added to the CORE curriculum

Emergency Response

- In 2008, the PVOC training was expanded to include practical exercises regarding the updated policy on Emergency Response (Code 3).
 - This is the operation of an emergency vehicle using the emergency warning devices, as well as activating the emergency vehicle's headlights.
 - Officers operating their vehicles in this manner shall not exceed the posted speed limit by more than 20 miles per hour on major streets and shall observe the posted speed limit in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
 - Officers shall come to a complete stop to ensure an intersection is clear prior to proceeding.
 - Assist Officer – The operation of an emergency vehicle Code 3 to assist another law enforcement officer when an imminent threat to the officer's safety is present.

PVOC Emergency Driving Techniques

- Teaches critical driving techniques such as:
 - Hand placement
 - Braking
 - Negotiating curves
 - Code 3 response (non-pursuit)
- Distracted Driver exercise that addresses the multi-tasking functions of a police officer.
 - Driving, using the radio, skid control, etc.

Vehicle Pursuit

- An entire day of PVOC training is dedicated to Pursuit Driving and covers the following responsibilities outlined in the Vehicle Pursuit policy:
 - The decision to pursue must be based on facts and circumstances known to the officer.
 - A number of risk factors must be considered.
 - All Code 3 responses require dispatcher notification
 - Limited pursuits to felonies involving the use or threat of physical force or violence.
 - The officer initiating the pursuit must reasonably believe the immediate need to apprehend the violator outweighs the risk to any person of collision, injury or death.
 - Officers and supervisors are required to continually assess pursuit risk factors.

PVOC Technique for Pursuit Driving

- Teaches critical driving techniques as well as:
 - Code 3 response (pursuit driving)
 - DPD Pursuit Policy
 - Mock pursuits are conducted

PVOC Techniques

- **NEVO (Non Emergency Vehicle Operation)**
 - This course primarily teaches backing and parallel parking.
- **Accident Avoidance**
 - Driving through cones teaches timing of steering wheel.
 - Evasive Lane Change – Demonstrates that it takes less distance to avoid an object than is required to stop before striking an object.
 - Controlled Braking – Teaches how to achieve maximum braking while controlling the vehicle.

DPD Pursuit Statistics

Year	Pursuits	Pursuits ending in crashes	Officers Killed	Officers injured	Suspects/ Citizens Killed	Suspects/ Citizens Injured
2006	200	55	0	12	3	39
2007	70	19	0	2	1	18
2008	39	14	0	7	0	10
2009	15	1	0	2	0	0

***The total number of pursuits, accidents, injuries and deaths have decreased over time.⁸**

QUESTIONS?