

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SAFETY IN AND AROUND YOUR PATROL VEHICLE

Motor vehicle events, including crashes and being struck by vehicles while outside your patrol car, are the leading cause of death among law enforcement officers. There are five simple things you can do to take control of your safety inside and outside of the patrol car. Encourage your fellow officers to do the same so that everyone goes home at the end of the shift.



1 Wear Your Seat Belt

Seat belts save 13,000 lives every year. Buckle up on every drive, every time. Encourage other officers to do the same.



2 Avoid Distracted Driving

While you can't eliminate all distractions in your patrol car, consider eliminating cell phone and mobile data terminal use during lights and siren responses.



3 Wear Your Reflective Gear

Wear a reflective vest or jacket when working around traffic while outside your patrol car. This makes you more visible to motorists. Keep your vest in your gear bag for easy access.



4 Attend Motor Vehicle Training

Update your motor vehicle training regularly. If not provided by your agency, request training funds to attend outside training or look for free training through various organizations.



5 Know Your Agency's Policy

Review your agency's motor-vehicle G.O. or S.O.P. Talk to your leadership about updating these policies to include speed caps, cell phone and mobile data terminal restrictions, as well as seat belt requirements.