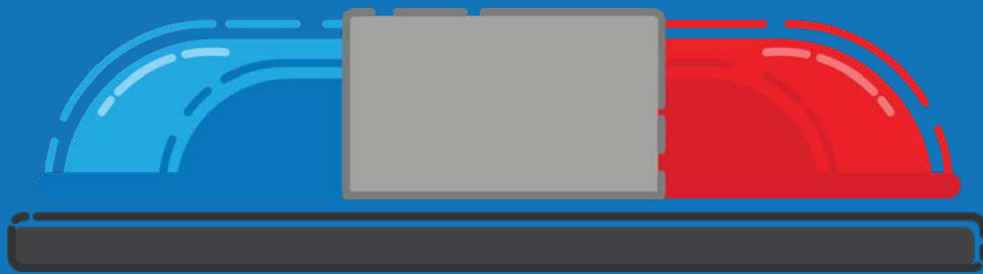


LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

HOW TO PREVENT MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE AT RISK OF MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS FROM MANY PREVENTABLE FACTORS.¹

After the death of three officers in motor vehicle collisions, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) developed three elements of a safe driving program: 1) policies, 2) more training for officers, and 3) daily safety messaging. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) collaborated with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) on a study evaluating the LVMPD program. They found that the safe driving program significantly reduced collisions and injuries, and saved the LVMPD over \$1 million.²



A SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM: BEFORE & AFTER^{2,3}

Number of Collisions



Before the program **1,616**
After the program **1,292**

Number of Injuries



Before the program **271**
After the program **159**

Collision and Injury Costs



Before the program **\$5.4 million**
After the program **\$4.3 million**

Cost savings totaled \$1.1 million.

¹ Some preventable factors that put officers at risk of a crash: not wearing a seat belt; speeding; distraction; stress
² Tiesman H, Gwilliam M, Rojek J, Hendricks S, Montgomery B, Alpert G. (2019). The Impact of a Crash Prevention Program in a Large Law Enforcement Agency. *AJIM*: 62(10): 847-858
³ Pre-intervention period covers 2007-2009; Post-intervention period covers 2011-2013

WHAT AGENCIES CAN DO TO PREVENT COLLISIONS



Policies

- Implement safe driving policies that require seat belt use, reduce unnecessary speeding (e.g., speed cap, intersection crossing), and reduce distraction (e.g., use of MDT and other in-car electronics).
- Educate officers about safe driving habits and operating their vehicle within policy.
- To reduce fatigue, provide enough off-duty time for officers.



Training

- Increase the frequency of driver training. Consider using free training materials from **VALOR** and **Below 100**.
- Model safe driving behaviors that you want your officers to practice (wearing your own seat belt, etc).



Messaging and Other Activities

- During roll call, emphasize the importance of safe driving. Look for other opportunities to incorporate road safety into workplace culture.
- Consider using NIOSH's free **Officer Road Code Toolkit** to share messages related to seat belts, speeding, distraction, and stress response.
- Encourage open communication between officers and leaders. Talk about safe driving and acknowledge those who are driving safely.
- Reduce distracted driving by minimizing distractions in the interior of the patrol car.

REMIND AND ENCOURAGE YOUR OFFICERS TO



- Buckle up and arrive alive.
- Think before you speed. Be aware of your driving environment when you respond to a call or engage in a pursuit.
- Make sure that intersections are clear before proceeding.
- Focus on driving. If possible, only use your MDT or other in-car electronics while you're stopped.



- Control stress by breathing slowly and steadily. Provide back-up with a clear mind.



- Stay well-rested and alert by getting enough sleep.



- Hold your fellow officers accountable. When you see a fellow officer driving too fast for conditions, say something to them.

Visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/leo for more law enforcement resources, including a toolkit of safe driving messages.

Get More Information

Find NIOSH products and get answers to workplace safety and health questions:
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348
CDC/NIOSH INFO: cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh
Monthly NIOSH eNews: cdc.gov/niosh/eNews