

## Traffic Collision Reporting

### 501.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Merced Police Department prepares traffic collision reports in compliance with the California Highway Patrol Collision Investigation Manual (CIM) and as a public service makes traffic collision reports available to the community with some exceptions.

### 501.2 RESPONSIBILITY

The Traffic Sergeant will be responsible for distribution of the Collision Investigation Manual. The Traffic Sergeant will receive all changes in the state manual and ensure conformity with this policy.

### 501.3 TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORTING

All traffic collision reports taken by members of this department shall be forwarded to the immediate supervisor for approval and data entry into the Records Management System. The Crime Analyst will be responsible for monthly and quarterly reports on traffic collision statistics to be forwarded to the Operations Captain, or other persons as required.

### 501.4 REPORTING SITUATIONS

#### 501.4.1 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS INVOLVING CITY VEHICLES

Traffic collision investigation reports shall be taken when a City-owned vehicle is involved in a traffic collision upon a roadway or highway wherein any damage or injury results. A general information report may be taken in lieu of a traffic collision report (CHP 555 form) at the direction of a supervisor when the collision occurs on private property or does not involve another vehicle. Whenever there is damage to a City vehicle, a Vehicle Damage Report shall be completed and forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander.

Photographs of the collision scene and vehicle damage shall be taken at the discretion of the traffic investigator or any supervisor.

#### 501.4.2 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

When an employee of this department, either on-duty or off-duty, is involved in a traffic collision within the jurisdiction of the Merced Police Department resulting in a serious injury or fatality, the on-duty supervisor or the Watch Commander, may notify the California Highway Patrol for assistance.

The term serious injury is defined as any injury that may result in a fatality.

#### 501.4.3 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS WITH OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS

The on-duty supervisor or on-duty Watch Commander may request assistance from the California Highway Patrol for the investigation of any traffic collision involving any City official or employee where a serious injury or fatality has occurred.

# Merced Police Department

Merced PD Policy Manual

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### **501.4.4 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

In compliance with the Collision Investigation Manual, traffic collision reports shall not be taken for traffic collisions occurring on private property unless there is a death or injury to any person involved, a hit-and-run violation, or Vehicle Code violation. An Incident Report may be taken at the discretion of any supervisor.

### **501.4.5 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON ROADWAYS OR HIGHWAYS**

Traffic collision reports shall be taken when they occur on a roadway or highway within the jurisdiction of this department under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) When there is a death or injury to any persons involved in the collision pursuant to VC Section 20008.
- (b) When there is an identifiable violation of the Vehicle Code.
- (c) When a report is requested by any involved driver.
- (d) Collisions resulting in an in-custody arrest for a violation of VC Sections 2800.1, 20002, or 23152.

### **501.5 NOTIFICATION OF TRAFFIC BUREAU SUPERVISION**

In the event of a serious injury or death related traffic collision, the Watch Commander shall notify the Patrol Lieutenant to relate the circumstances of the traffic collision and seek assistance from an accident investigator. In the absence of a Patrol Lieutenant, the Watch Commander or any supervisor may assign an accident investigator or motor officer to investigate the traffic collision.