

## Chapter 34

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Standards in this chapter govern department activities connected with or related to traffic accidents.

#### **34.1 Accident Reporting and Investigation**

##### **34.1.1 A written directive governs accident reporting and investigation to include accidents involving:**

- o death or injury;
- o property damage;
- o hit and run;
- o impairment due to alcohol or drugs; or
- o hazardous materials.

*Comments: The directive should establish procedures to ensure that the department's accident reporting and investigation responsibilities are efficiently and effectively carried out. (M M M)*

##### **34.1.2 A written directive requires police response to the scene of an accident involving any of the following:**

- o death or injury;
- o hit and run;
- o impairment of an operator due to alcohol or drugs;
- o damage to public vehicles or property;
- o hazardous materials;
- o disturbances between principals;
- o major traffic congestion as a result of the accident; or
- o damage to vehicles to the extent towing is required.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to allow each department to develop policy appropriate to local conditions. This policy should be communicated to motorists through the department's public information program. (M M M)*

**34.1.3 A written directive governs the use of expert and technical assistance in accident investigations.**

*Comments: The directive should specify the circumstances under which a traffic accident analyst is to be utilized. (M M M)*