

**DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**  
Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270  
CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

**COURSE GOAL:**

This course provides instruction in developing a suitable training site, obtaining necessary equipment, and scheduling and instructing driver awareness training classes. Students will experience oversteer, understeer, proper lane positioning, apexing, good visual horizon and symptoms of incorrect control and corrective action. The driver training will enhance the safety and raise the level of skills to help instructors return to their respective agencies and implement a comprehensive driving course. The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of Driver Training/Awareness required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program including: Basic Driving Principles, Legal and Moral Aspects, Defensive Driving and Maneuvering Course Exercises. This course also provides updated legislative content of Penal Code Section 835a.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical Driver Training/Awareness for officers interested in serving as Driver Awareness Instructors.

**DRIVER TRAINING/AWARENESS**

**Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Policy, legal and moral issues
- c. Vehicle Dynamics
- d. Defensive driving
- e. Intersections exercise(s)
- f. Backing/parking exercise(s)
- g. Behind the wheel exercises to improve driving skills – judgment and decision making
- h. Class Exercises, Student Evaluation, and or optional Testing

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their Driver Training/Awareness skills and techniques
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of psychomotor skills with every technique and exercise to include:
  - A. Judgment and Decision Making
  - B. Policy, Legal and Moral Issues
  - C. Basic Driving Principles and Vehicle Dynamics
  - D. Defensive Driving

**DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**  
Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270  
CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.**

**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Registration, introduction, and orientation
  - A. Forms completion
    - 1. Rosters and other POST forms
    - 2. Evaluation forms
  - B. Facility and track
    - 1. Safety protocols
    - 2. Communication concerns
    - 3. Orientation
  - C. Instructor course purpose
    - 1. Train a cadre of trainers
    - 2. Increase frequency of refresher courses for in-service
    - 3. Traffic collision reduction
    - 4. Reduce departmental liability
  - D. Course philosophy
    - 1. Safe and defensive driving priority
      - 2. Proper use of basic driving principles
      - 3. Create enthusiasm in the instructor
  - E. Overview of Driver Awareness Instructor Course
    - 1. Review course outline
    - 2. Review training exercises through visuals
  - F. Overview of teaching assignments for students
  - G. Handouts
    - 1. Review printed material

## **DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

2. Review list of visual aids

### II. Manual familiarization

#### A. Emphasize importance of knowing material prior to training

1. Designed to prepare the instructor to teach the course
2. Reference guide
3. Establish credibility with students

#### B. Review key components of manual

1. Chapter by chapter summary
2. Review all 10 driving exercise diagrams

### III. Course management

#### A. Site preparation

1. Convenient location
2. Adequate classroom facilities
3. Avoid residential areas
4. Flat surface
5. Restrooms available
6. Permits/approvals if necessary

#### B. Course design

1. Adequate spacing between exercises
2. Five minimum exercise course selectable from manual
3. Pre-marking of cone placements to reduce set-up time
4. Design course for size of vehicle
5. Utilize one vehicle type when possible

#### C. Equipment / resource materials

1. Vehicles similar to patrol vehicle and mechanically safe with LEA equipment
2. Communications available
3. Cones and delineators
4. Additional equipment (spray paint, clipboards, visual aids)

## **DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

- D. Safety and control
  - 1. Available first aid kit / fire extinguisher
  - 2. Know hospital location
  - 3. Keep area clear and free of obstructions
  - 4. Provide proper supervision
  - 5. Use seat belts
  - 6. Do not allow high speeds or horseplay
  - 7. Area should be kept clear of other traffic during training
  
- E. Evaluation
  - 1. Each student should be objectively evaluated when possible
  - 2. Improvement needed evaluations require instructor comments
  - 3. All students will receive both observational and written tests.
  
- F. Remediate weak performance
  
- G. Scheduling
  - 1. Refresher training every two years
  - 2. Identify and prioritize employees to be trained
  - 3. Record Keeping
  
- H. Format and hours
  - 1. Eight hours minimum
  - 2. Recommended 4-hour lecture
  - 3. Student to instructor ratio shall follow POST safety guideline
  
- I. Documentation
  - 1. Student
    - a. Names
    - b. Evaluations
    - c. Dates and times of training
  
  - 2. Instructor
    - a. Names
    - b. Training
    - c. Experience

## **DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

- d. Lesson plans
- J. Contingency Planning
  - 1. Alternate site
  - 2. Practice set-up
  - 3. Alternate classroom
  - 4. Back-up instructors
- IV. Adult learning concepts
  - A. Instructor training
    - 1. Attributes and suggestions of an effective and successful instructor
    - 2. Use of teaching tools and techniques
    - 3. Visual / auditory / kinesthetic teaching modalities
    - 4. Principles of voice command, posture, presence and command
    - 5. Four-step teaching and testing method (introduction, presentation, application, evaluation)
- V. Driving
  - A. Basic driving principles
    - 1. Weight transfer
    - 2. Steering control
    - 3. Throttle control
    - 4. Speed judgment
    - 5. Brake application
    - 6. Roadway position
    - 7. Proper application and coordination results in safety and control
    - 8. Seat belt usage
  - B. Driving exercises review
    - 1. Students will observe and perform a pre-shift vehicle inspection.
    - 2. Students will observe an instructor driven demonstration of each exercise outside car
    - 3. Walk through each exercise with an in-depth explanation and discussion
    - 4. Instructor drives and demonstrates with students in the vehicle
    - 5. The student will observe weight transfer forward and backward.
    - 6. The student will observe steering control forward and backward.

## DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

7. The student will observe proper speed judgment forward and backward.
8. All vehicle placement activities will be driven and explained.
9. Placement activities include traveling in both forward and backward directions.

### C. Legal aspects and issues / code-3 driving

1. California law – Vehicle Code
  - a. 17001 CVC
  - b. 17004 CVC
  - c. 17004.7 CVC
  - d. 21055 CVC
  - e. 21056 CVC
  - f. 21806 CVC
  - g. 21807 CVC
  - h. 22350 CVC
2. California Law – Penal Code
3. California Law – Evidence Code
  - a. Mandates policy compliance
  - b. Violation of policy is negligence *per se*
4. Peterson vs. City of Long Beach / liability considerations
  - a. Clearing intersections
    - 1) Stop if necessary
    - 2) Lane by lane
    - 3) Passing
    - 4) Speed awareness
    - 5) Limitations of emergency warning devices
5. Case law (f)
  - a. Brummett vs. County of Sacramento
  - b. Duarte vs. City of San Jose
  - c. Grant vs. Petronella
  - d. Stark vs. City of Los Angeles
  - e. Federal case law considerations

## **DRIVER AWARENESS INSTRUCTOR**

Santa Clara County, Office of the Sheriff – 2270

CCN: 21815 | POST Certification II | Reimbursable Plan IV | 24 Hours

6. What has changed in 2020?
  - a. PC 835(a)
  - b. Effects of AB 392/SB 230
  - c. How does de-escalation apply to pursuit?
  - d. “Totality of the circumstances” now relevant to the balance test.

### **D. Driving exercises**

1. Demonstration / evaluation of student driving exercises - introduction to learning / teaching concepts:
  - a. Driving speeds during demonstration and training
  - b. Driving reference points
  - c. Driver/Instructor communication and coordination
  - d. Presentation (demonstrate driving principles of each exercise)
  - e. Application
  - f. Perfecting driving skills
  - g. Demonstrate driving principles of each exercise
  - h. Identify problems and provide feedback to student
  - i. Evaluation and testing by observation based on structured exam
  - j. Miscellaneous tips on instructor expertise
  - k. Record driving performance

## **VI. Conclusion**

### **A. Student lecture presentations**

1. Lesson plan
2. Presentation
3. EVOC instructor and audience evaluation and critique

### **B. Review / test / critique / evaluation of DAI Course**

1. General review of all program material and activities
2. Written examination (student Instructors)
3. Oral feedback from students
4. Written evaluation of course