IDAHO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING
PROCEDURE

12.24 EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS COURSE

A. General

Providing safe and effective emergency vehicle operation training is a top priority for POST. This policy will guide POST staff and instructors in the safe operation of emergency vehicle operations.

B. Definitions

"EVOC" means Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

"Academy Coordinator" means a POST employee directly responsible for a specific training academy or basic academy session.

"EVOC Instructor" means a designated member within the instructor training cadre, who is primarily responsible for coaching and teaching students on the track and/or classroom. EVOC Instructors assist the Master Instructor and report any safety violations or concerns.

"EVOC Master Instructor" means a designated member of the EVOC training cadre who is responsible for the overall course operation. The EVOC Master Instructor delegates and assigns responsibilities for the EVOC Instructor Cadre.

"Safety Briefing" means a discussion, or written notification, of proper safety procedures and protocols while operating an emergency vehicle.

"EVOC Track" is a 22 acre dedicated training area specifically designed for emergency vehicle operations. The track is located on the Idaho POST Academy Campus.

"Pursuit Intervention Technique" or PIT, is a technique used by law enforcement personnel to force a fleeing vehicle to abruptly turn 180 degrees, causing the vehicle to stall and stop.

C. Implementation

1. Written Notification - Prior to any EVOC training, all students will be issued a written form consisting of the EVOC safety rules and procedures. The students will read and sign the form and return it to the Academy Coordinator.
    a. The written form will contain the following—
        i. The Emergency Vehicle Operations Course requires quick responsive decision-making, the ability to control a motor vehicle and a desire to learn complex driving skills.
        ii. Safety equipment will be used at all times when operating any of the EVOC vehicles.

iii. Participants shall follow the instructor's directions completely. If the student is in doubt about a proper technique, he/she is responsible for requesting assistance from the instructor.
iv. No driving techniques will be performed unless instructed to do so. All techniques will be performed slowly at first until the participant has demonstrated thorough knowledge of the proper application of each technique.
v. Duty belts and duty uniforms will be worn unless otherwise instructed.
vi. Each participant shall notify an instructor, prior to driving, of any pre-existing medical conditions which may affect their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle or which may affect the completion of this training.
vii. Any injury sustained during this training will be immediately reported to the instructor. Instructors will confirm with students at close of business each training day that there are no injuries.
viii. Horseplay of any kind will not be tolerated during any EVOC training. Violation of the horseplay rule can result in immediate dismissal from the training session.
ix. All medical emergencies will be brought to the instructor's attention. If necessary, 911 will be contacted immediately while the instructor assesses the medical emergency.
x. Students may stop training at any time, without repercussions, if they perceive a safety issue.
xi. All EVOC activities may be stopped or suspended due to inclement weather.

2. Course Operations – EVOC training will be conducted by members of the EVOC Training Cadre. Within that cadre, there are specific responsibilities assigned to individuals to help ensure safe course operations.
   a. EVOC Master Instructor responsibilities:
      i. The EVOC Master Instructor will designate duties and responsibilities to the instructor cadre.
      ii. The EVOC Master Instructor and the instructor cadre will inspect the track for any obvious training, or safety issues, prior to the start of each training day.
      iii. Prior to any actual driving, the EVOC Master Instructor will conduct a safety briefing with the instructor cadre.
      iv. The EVOC Master Instructor will be responsible for conducting course/track operations. This may include providing commands, delegating other instructors to conduct training drills, delegating instructors to operate other ancillary courses, or training operations.
      v. The EVOC Master Instructor will be present during all track/course driving exercises.

   b. EVOC Instructor responsibilities:
      i. The EVOC Instructor is responsible for the overall safe operation of the course.
         1. Inspects the track and vehicles for safety issues prior to the start of the training day.

2. Controls ingress and egress of students, staff, and others who are on the track.
3. Watches for safety issues related to:
    a. Students' performance related to emergency vehicle operations.
    b. Weather conditions.
    c. Overall track surface and equipment condition.
    d. Student rest periods, meal breaks.
    e. Other conditions which may be potential hazards.
4. Has the authority to stop all training to correct any safety issue they identify.
5. Course operations may not restart until cleared by the EVOC Instructor in consultation with the EVOC Master Instructor.

c. Academy Coordinator responsibilities:
    i. Secure track reservations.
    ii. Issue the written notification of student responsibilities during EVOC training.
    iii. Secure Track/Vehicle keys and other equipment necessary for EVOC operations.
    iv. Support the EVOC Training Cadre with any needs they have.
    v. Inspect the track for safety issues prior to any training.

3. Track Access - Controlling staff and student access at the track is critical to safe operations. The EVOC instructor cadre are responsible for the safety of the staff and students during EVOC training. Any member of the instructor cadre, or student, may stop all driving activities if an unsafe action is observed.
    a. Anyone entering the track during training must contact a member of the instructor cadre. The instructor will determine if the person entering the track may proceed to a driving station, or remain at a designated safe viewing area(s).
    b. Any student or staff who are leaving the track will inform the instructor cadre. Upon return to the track, they will contact the instructor cadre before resuming driving.
    c. Observers or non-participants will not be permitted on the track unless approved by the instructor cadre. They may observe from a designated safe location determined by the instructor cadre.

D. Sufficient Size for Diversity of Training

1. The EVOC Track is approximately 22 acres in size and is comprised of asphalt. The track is designed to accommodate high-speed pursuit driving, perception/reaction, skills pad, backing course, and Skid-Car training. There are designated driving lanes, intersections, traffic signals and stop signs.

2. The EVOC Track is a permanent and dedicated training facility used by the Idaho POST Academy and local agencies for in-service training.

E. EVOC Training Vehicles

1. The Idaho POST Academy has approximately 15 dedicated EVOC vehicles that are solely used for emergency vehicle operation training. There are also 4 dedicated PIT vehicles. The EVOC Fleet consists of the following types of vehicles:
    a. Ford Crown Victoria
    b. Dodge Charger
    c. Chevy Tahoe

2. The Idaho POST Academy has three (3) dedicated Skid-Cars. Some EVOC instructors are qualified to conduct maintenance on the Skid-Car system. Skid-Cars consist of the following types of vehicles:
    a. (1) Ford Explorer
    b. (2) Dodge Charger

3. Every EVOC vehicle has a marked and dedicated parking space when not in use. These parking spaces are free of any hazards and dangerous obstacles.

4. Prior to using any EVOC vehicle, a detailed vehicle inspection is completed and turned into the fleet manager.
    a. Instructors teach the students how to do the inspections and then make sure they are done correctly before each use.
    b. Any mechanical or safety issues are immediately identified and corrected.
    c. If this cannot be accomplished in a timely manner, the vehicle in question is taken out of service until repairs can be made.

ANNEX A: Idaho POST driving track