

# Lincoln Police

## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS DATE ISSUED 08/30/09 REVIEW 08/30/11

---

**Policy** To establish standard procedures in traffic accident investigations

---

**Purpose** The purpose of this order is to cover  
Traffic Accidents - Investigations  
Hit & Run -reporting

---

- Guidelines**
- The department will utilize the NH Uniform Accident Report System
  - Reporting of collisions shall comply with NH RSA 264:26
  - Private property – accidents shall be investigated, but enforcement of violations may not be possible if the element of the offense is a “public way”
  - Commercial Vehicle Accidents – NH Commercial Vehicle Enforcement unit will handle or provide guidance regarding Driver and vehicles regulations (impoundment of vehicle etc.)
- 

**Investigate (61.2.1)** This department will follow these guidelines

<b>Officer shall...</b>	<b>Accidents that...</b>
Investigate	Involve death or injury Property damage of \$1000 or more And/or one vehicle requires towing Involving police vehicles, regardless of damage Involve the spillage of hazardous waste Involve a hit and run Involve an alcohol/ drug impairment of an operator
Report, not investigate	Any accident that is not covered above

All reporting of collisions shall comply with the NH RSA 264:26 (Uniform Police Investigation Report of Accidents)

**Response**

Officers are required to respond to all accidents, except in severe weather conditions where multiple accidents have occurred. In that case the Dispatcher will assign only cases based on the following.

Mandatory response required – based on Priority

- injury or death (a)
- Hit and run (b)
- Impairment of driver (c.)
- Hazardous material (e)
- Disorderly or assault at the accident (f)
- Traffic congestion due to the accident (g)
- Town /state vehicle or property (d)
- Vehicle must be towed (h)

Other cases will be requested to fill out the NH state Motor vehicle Accident report at the station

Scene Response - First Officer investigates the accident (61.2.3a)

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	Assess the situation - <i>injuries, Fire, Hazmat</i>
2	Request necessary assistance- Medical, Fire, specialist or traffic
3	Protect the area and subjects at the scene Cruiser should be parked to offer protection and Serve as a warning to oncoming traffic Warning devices or flares may be utilized if possible Additional officers for traffic control if needed
4	Identify injured subjects (61.2.3 b) Provide minor medical assistance (based on officers capabilities and credentials) Assist ambulance
5	Fire, Hazmat or entrapment of victims Fire Chief or designee becomes incident commander Officer to assist
6	Personal Property – once safe to do so (61.2.3f) Ensure personal property is secured in vehicle, transported to hospital with victim or released to family member If not possible – take into custody and follow property GO
7	Tow vehicle follow GO guidelines
8	Dispatch notified if reportable or non reportable under state law

**CAUTION.**

Gas spills present a extreme danger

Make sure ignition is turned off

Non-deployed air bags – officer shall use caution & not place themselves in a position where the bag can expand and cause injury

---

**HAZMAT**  
(61.2.3c)

- If Hazmat spill is known officer shall not approach until placard and spill type is known. Binoculars should be utilized from ¼ mile and Dispatch advised regarding the information.
- Dispatch will contact Chem-trac or other references to determine what the material is and any precautions should be relayed to responders
- Fire Chief assumes incident commander role and once finished scene command becomes police responsibility

---

**Chain of Command**

Unless relieved by a supervisor the initial officer will investigate the accident and remain incident commander

A Specialist or reconstructionist may be assigned to assist or lead the investigation in the following cases:

Death or serious bodily injury	NH State police
Commercial vehicle or Motor Carrier	NHSP Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Shall be notified and request
Police Cruiser with any injury	NH State police
Requests by Attorney General or County Attorney	NH State police

---

**Data Collection**  
(61.2.4)

The following data should be obtained at the scene of all accidents (State Forms filled out in full - if required)

Basic	Time, Date and place
Operator	Name, DOB, address, phone number, license number
Owner	Name, DOB, address, phone number, insurance co
Vehicle/s	Make, model, year, VIN, license plate
Injured	Name, address, phone number, description of injury and if transported, the name of Hospital
Witnesses	Name, address, phone number
Statements	Relevant statements at the scene should be noted Witnesses should be separated during interview Written statement if needed

---

**Investigations**  
(83.2.6)

A record should be made of any significant physical evidence and all the data necessary to complete the Accident form.

Key measurements – roadway, point of impact, potential evidence and other critical data should be documented.

Photos for serious cases involving property damage and injury should include at a minimum

- Interior and exterior of vehicles
- Vehicles at final resting place
- Debris or marks on the road
- Roadway
- Other documentation specific to the accident

---

**Hit & Run**

For Serious property damage or injury

<b>Officers shall</b>	<b>Take the following action...</b>
Immediately	Broadcast information on vehicle fleeing the scene to include; Vehicle and operators Unusual Markings and damage Direction
Examine the scene	Obtain any evidence – fragments or pieces of the vehicle
Take into evidence	Paint samples Injured Victims clothing

---

**Follow up investigations**

At a minimum the following

- Medical Records
- Physician reports
- Blood Tests (RSA265:93)
- Vehicle mechanical inspections
- Laboratory reports
- Background investigation on operator/s including activity for 24 hour period prior to collision

---

**Review**

All investigative accidents should be reviewed by the Sergeant  
Based on this, it may be assigned to a experienced investigator  
The scope of the investigation may then be limited or expanded

---

**Notifications**

A supervisor shall be notified of an Accident involving a serious injury  
The chief shall be notified of any fatality or critical case

---

**Responsibilities**

Position	Shall
Officer	Handle all accidents as described, unless a supervisor instructs otherwise
Dispatcher	Assist officer with data collection Make notification Coordinate multi agency response
Sergeant	Review all accident reports
Supervisor (includes Sgt & above)	Determine investigative needs Respond to scene if needed
Chief	Reviews all major accidents Responds to fatalities if needed

---

**Reports**

NH Uniform Traffic Accident report	Must be completed with 24 hours by investigating officer Unless waiver given by supervisor
LPD Voluntary Statement Form	Provide to witnesses
NH Motor Carrier Accident Report	Must be completed with 24 hours by investigating officer Unless waiver given by supervisor