



Traffic Safety Bulletin

We Serve and Protect

AUGUST 1986

FRED RICE, Superintendent of Police

ONE WAY! TO AVOID ACCIDENTS



Did you ever notice how the mere presence of a marked police vehicle improves the driving habits of motorists around you? All of a sudden people are slowing down, using their turn signals and yielding to pedestrians. Knowing that a motorist would rather sit through an extra-inning Cub game than be involved in an accident with a police car, tends to lull some police officers into a sense of security.

However, not all motorists are aware that they are driving next to a police vehicle, or any vehicle for that matter. This accident occurred when a motorist cut in front of the police vehicle to make a left turn. No contact was made, but when the officer attempted to avoid the accident he lost control of his vehicle on the wet pavement and struck a building. You should never assume that the other driver can see you. **DEFENSIVE DRIVING IS THE ONLY WAY TO STAY OUT OF OTHER PEOPLES ACCIDENTS.**

SAFETY QUIZ

A parked vehicle is side swiped by a vehicle being towed by a tow truck. List the order in which the three vehicles would appear on a traffic accident report.

- a. tow truck
 - b. towed vehicle
 - c. parked vehicle
- Vehicle No. 1 _____
Vehicle No. 2 _____
Vehicle No. 3 _____

ANSWER: Technically, this accident involves only two vehicles and should be handled in the same manner as a truck/semi-trailer or other vehicle pulling a trailer, when involved in an accident. In this case the tow truck is listed as vehicle No. 1 and the parked vehicle as No. 2. The towed vehicle should be fully described in the narrative.

WAR AND PEACE

ARE YOU AWARE

When a department vehicle **ACCIDENT** occurs or **DAMAGE** is discovered the driver will:

1. Prepare a Department Vehicle Accident and Damage Report.
2. Notify the Motor Maintenance Division Control Board.

NOTE: You must do both. A notification should not be made unless a report is submitted.

American deaths in all U.S. wars	American deaths in accidents on U.S. highways
1775-1985	1900-1985
1,186,654	2,579,565

DEAR SAFETY MAN,

When handling a bus accident with numerous injuries, is it possible to list them on a supplementary report?

No, according to the Traffic Accident Report General Instructions, "The form provides space for information on four persons; if more space is needed, use an additional form, changing Witness/Person No. 1 to No. 5, etc." A supplementary report is used only for additional information or investigation reported at a later date or time.

JUST A REMINDER. . .

Although Illinois motorists can no longer "Promise to Comply" for minor traffic violations, the State of Illinois is still a Member of the Non-Residents Violators Compact. Motorists from a member state still have the option of signing a "Promise to Comply" for a personal service citation.

SPORTS SAFETY QUIZ

What do you get when you combine Mass Transit and the Traffic Division?

ANSWER: The 1986 Chicago Police Department Softball Champs!