

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER

207

Subject

Fatal and Serious Motor Vehicle Accidents

Date of Issue

January 29, 2020

Effective Date

January 29, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

All Previous Orders

Standard Number:

2.2.1

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to ensure proper procedures are followed for investigating fatal and serious motor vehicle accidents.

II POLICY

It is the policy of the Lower Providence Township Police Department to ensure the complete and comprehensive investigation of all fatal and serious motor vehicle accidents in an attempt to ascertain possible factors that could have bearing or contributed to the accident, and to preserve any evidence gained by this investigation

III DEFINITION

A. Fatal or Serious Motor Vehicle Accident:

1. A motor vehicle accident in which it is apparent that there has been loss of life, or an accident where injuries are of a nature to make one believe that death or severe injuries may occur.

B. Severe Injuries:

1. Injuries which would create or could cause serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

IV REGULATION

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the duty supervisor, while at the scene of accidents, to monitor closely

the seriousness of each accident. In the event a fatality has occurred or injuries appear of such magnitude that the injured may die, the supervisor will contact command staff who will initiate procedures to have an accident reconstructionist respond to the scene.

- B. In the event that there is the potential for major criminal charges other than Driving Under the Influence arising from a fatal or serious motor vehicle accident, procedures outlined in the policy relating to Major Crime Scenes/Chain of Authority shall apply.
- C. It will be the duty of the accident reconstructionist, the assigned detective, or appropriate command personnel to order the appropriate towing facility to remove those vehicles involved for immediate impoundment at a place of secure holding.
 - 1. The vehicle(s) shall be inspected to determine if mechanical or structural defects have contributed to the accident. The inspection shall be conducted by a mechanic certified to conduct such inspections. The vehicle(s) shall be held until such inspection is completed and in the event that there is determined to be mechanical defects that contributed to the accident, the vehicle(s) shall be held until such time as the evidentiary value of the vehicle(s) has been exhausted.
- C. Upon the impoundment of a vehicle for the purpose of a post collision inspection, the ordering officer shall define all conditions that must be met prior to the release of the impounded vehicle.
- D. Notifications
 - 1. The Lieutenant and Chief of Police shall be notified in the event of all fatal motor vehicle accidents and all motor vehicle accidents involving serious injuries.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police