

# Traffic Safety Newsletter

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## Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Recertification Changes

Starting January 1, 2011, the Traffic Safety Unit changed SFST Recertification from optional to mandatory. The certified practitioner will recertify every two years by attending a three hour class with a written test of ten questions. In addition, the student will have to demonstrate the three nationally recognized field sobriety tests to a field instructor. The field instructor will document the proficiency on a standardized form that will be filed by the Traffic Safety Unit SFST coordinator. The documents will remain with the unit for three years to comply with any Brady Motions that may be filed to document the officer's skills. All officers will be grandfathered in and will have to recertify before December 31, 2012.

Instructors will recertify every

two years by teaching one class in a two year period either as a primary or assisting instructor, or by completing two field proficiencies for practitioner recertification. The instructor may also teach the recertification course at their respected departments. Students will have one week to complete the field proficiency test after attending the classroom portion.

Instructors will submit a class request form from the Academy's website, [www.sccja.sc.gov](http://www.sccja.sc.gov) and specify which class is going to be instructed (SFST Practitioner or SFST Recertification). The Traffic Safety Unit SFST Coordinator will reply with a confirmation letter to the instructor with specifications outlining the course materials.

The instructor will have one week to return all course materi-

als and paperwork back to the SFST Coordinator. Any instructor may administer the field proficiency portion but it is that instructor's responsibility to submit the results by email using the forms link on the Academy's website.

To reduce the amount of paperwork, all forms and proficiency tests will be submitted back to the Traffic Safety Unit by utilizing the website.

For submission of field proficiency tests, click on field proficiency test and complete the form. Print the form for your files and submit it to the Traffic Safety Unit using the link provided. It is the instructor's responsibility to document what classes are taught or what field proficiency tests are administered by the instructor.

## Speed Measuring Device Program

For the upcoming 2011 year there will be no new changes to the SMD program; however, I would like to remind all of the Training Officers and Field Instructors of the changes that took place in 2010. The Radar and Lidar Recertification now carries a road proficiency test along with

the written examination. Throughout the year I have been calling to remind Agencies across the State of the updates and have extended the required two week deadline up to two months. We have updated the Radar and Lidar Recert broadcast with a reminder of the road proficiency; this will be the

only reminder in the upcoming year. We have to maintain the integrity of the SMD program. Holding the classes open after the deadline compromises the policies and procedures set forth by our Training Council.

## ...continued Speed Measuring Device Program

The Academy's website is back up and has the required forms for both the class request and the road proficiency. So to our field instructors, when you complete the road proficiency, or class request, you can enter it into the form on our website. When you complete the required form click on the submit button and the form will automatically be emailed to Jim Crosland. This will save on the hardship of mailing all of the paperwork and the risk of road proficiencies being lost in transit.

## New Courses and Upcoming Events

Several new courses in the collision field are almost ready to be offered. The first one is the Ped/Bike Collision Investigation Course which concentrates on pedestrian strikes and yes, more math. The second course is the Commercial Motor Vehicle Collision Investigation which concentrates on commercial collisions and even more math. The annual Traffic Safety Officer's Conference will be held again this year in the month of August, more dates will be sent out later. The exciting thing is not only are we recognizing TSO but also Traffic Safety Instructors this year. For TSI, the officer must be a TSO with two of the advanced collision courses and has had Basic Instructor Development. The Traffic Safety Unit is very excited this year with the completion of the new village which means, more advanced training will be offered to the field.

## A Message From The Program Manager

The last four years have flown by and it is exciting to see how this program has evolved. Last year, we taught over 130 classes to approximately 2000 students. We currently offer more than 15 different classes compared to 6 five years ago. I attribute the growth and success of our programs to two things. First I would like to thank my staff; the Traffic Safety Unit Instructors spend countless hours working on the classes we provide to the field. These are 6 of the most qualified and committed individuals that I have ever met. The fact they are willing to travel ALL the time and spend as much time as necessary with students says a lot about their character. Second, I would like to thank our supporters; it is you, the officers in the field, and the departments that host our classes that have made our traffic safety program a success. Without you and your support, the Traffic Unit would not be where we are today. I am excited about the new classes we have to offer and about the future of our program. The Traffic Safety Unit has plans to add even more training to our curriculum and make the training the best in the country. If there is anything we can do, please feel free to call me and thank you again for all your support.

Dale Smith  
Traffic Safety Program Manager

### Motorcycle Technical Collision Class October 4-8, 2010

