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# ILEA Emergency Vehicle Operations

6 Elements of Defensive Driving



# *ATTITUDE*

- ◆ Key to most accidents
- ◆ “Style of Life” Theory
- ◆ Problem drivers are problem people
  - 85% of all accidents are caused by the same 15% of people
- ◆ Chronic violators & accident repeaters
  - apt to be aggressive
  - resent authority
  - exaggerated opinion
  - lack of social responsibility



# *Officer's Attitude*

- ◆ Become over-confident in their ability
- ◆ Minimize seriousness of minor accidents
- ◆ Too much pride in past record
- ◆ Too much faith in experience
- ◆ Have belief in false ideas and misconceptions
  - lights and siren will clear way
  - will be able to stop in time or “on a dime”
- ◆ Impatience



# *Officer's Attitude*

- ◆ “We MUST recognize our attitudes and change them when necessary”





# *Attitude*

- ◆ Three E's of Good Driving and Safe Highways
  - Enforcement
  - Education
  - Engineering
- ◆ There has to be a willingness to improve!



# *Knowledge*

- ◆ We MUST be knowledgeable in:
  - Motor Vehicle Laws
  - Mechanics of Patrol Vehicle
  - Patrol Vehicle Dynamics



# *Knowledge*

- ◆ Three Basic Driving Environments:
  - Parking Areas
    - where highest percentage of minor accidents occur
  - Unlimited Access Roadways
    - City streets
  - Limited Access Roadways
    - Interstates and highways



# *Attentiveness*

- ◆ We must maintain:
  - importance of good habits
  - stay free of distractions
  - awareness of patrol vehicle factors
  - awareness of environmental factors
  - control of our personal factors and emotions





# *Foresight*

## ◆ Long-range Foresight

- advanced planning
- vehicle inspection
- equipment inspection

## ◆ Immediate Foresight

- reaction to situation at hand
  - intersection approach
  - child in roadway
  - stalled vehicle



# *Judgement*

- ◆ Ability to recognize all alternatives that are available to you
  - choose best alternative available
  - USES COMMON SENSE



# *Skills*

- ◆ Your ability to manipulate a vehicle in a desired manner
- ◆ Proficiency - MUST do it right every time