



By Cpl. Thomas Day, MPA

Driver's Training Facility

Current Need

- WSPD conducts yearly in-car driver's training with all sworn personnel
- Provide over 150 hours of training to recruits per class
- Current location (Shorefair Dr.) is undersized, on a steep grade, and is frequently utilized for other events
- Closest facility that meets need is in Guilford County

Statistics

- WSPD personnel drive over 6 million miles a year
- 2011-2018: 419 preventable crashes
 - Weather related-60, Speed- 33
 - Inattention- 150, Backing- 132
- 10-15 pursuits a year
- Almost half of all fatal law enforcement crashes nationally are single vehicle crashes
- Fatal crashes are the leading cause of line of duty deaths
- Most crashes occur at low speed, in clear weather, and on non-emergency calls

Basic Requirements

- Fence/barrier surrounding course with warning signs at access points
- First aid station
- Restrooms and drinking water
- Telephone/radio communications
- Safety zone around all courses
- Surface must be asphalt, concrete, or similar surface
- Must be reasonably level (1% grade is ideal)
- Entire course must fit on the paved area
 - Largest course: 490' length, 174' width

Recommendations

- Safety zone of at least 50 feet
- Shelter from elements (rain, lightning, excessive heat)
 - Ideally a climate controlled classroom
- Maintenance area housing basic supplies (fluids, tires, etc.)

Guilford Technical Community College



Surry County Community College



North Carolina Justice Academy



Local Impact

- Site is located away from residential areas
- Noise- Minimal, no more than a vehicle driving through a parking lot. Sirens used in training can be modified to eliminate any disturbance
- Crash Risk- Site has to be fenced, preventing vehicles from entering. Exercises require a safety zone preventing loss of control
- Pedestrian- All entry points are monitored by staff, all participants are empowered to stop training should a hazardous condition occur
- Lights- Only vehicle headlights

Advantages

- Advanced training for law enforcement personnel
- More efficient and effective training for recruits
- Consistency in training for in-service officers
- Ability to develop community partnerships
- Standardized remedial training

