

## **Clifford A. Prosser**

(205) 681-6869

(205) 681-4761 fax

e-mail: [cprosser6869@charter.net](mailto:cprosser6869@charter.net)

## ***Traffic Accident Consulting Services***

4248 Fieldstone Drive

Birmingham, Alabama

35215

To: **Police Administrators and Department Heads**

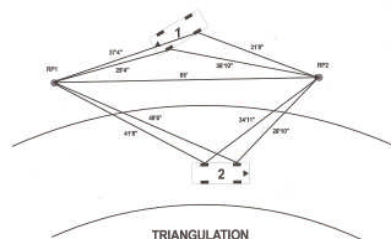
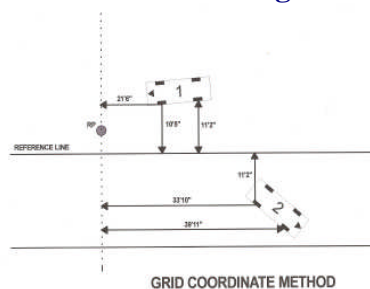
Re: **Traffic Homicide Investigation Training**

### **To Whom It May Concern,**

Please allow me to take just a few minutes of your busy schedule to familiarize you with our course curriculum, and to advise you of its potential benefit to your agency. In this time when traffic crash deaths are being scrutinized more closely than ever before with an eye toward prosecution, it is imperative that your officers have a firm grasp of how to respond to, examine and process a traffic crash scene. The same goes for the vehicles, drivers, witnesses and physical evidence that may be of crucial importance in evaluating a matter for screening with the district attorney's office.

Our purpose is not to create "instant experts", and our course stops short of the more training intensive crash reconstruction level. Our training will enable an officer to document an accident scene with accurate measurements, scaled illustrations and effective photographs, and to process any evidence documented. In addition, each officer completing the full traffic homicide curriculum will be capable in making calculations of vehicle speeds in a variety of crash situations, as well as calculations of perception and response distances, braking to stop distances, curve radius, and time factors of crash events. See below for a list of topics covered in our two week course:

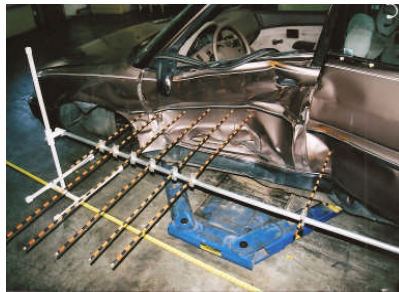
- **Definitions and the Traffic Crash Time Line**
- **Factors and Events**
- **Crash Scene Measuring and Mapping, including Introduction to CAD**



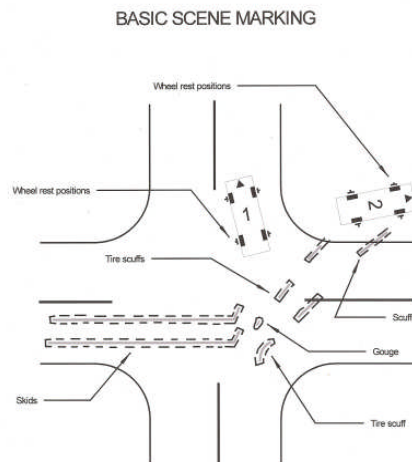
- **Determining Roadway Surface Friction**
- **Measuring Roadway Grade and Super-elevation**
- **Calculating Vehicle Speeds from Tire Marks and other Dynamic Evidence**
- **Time and Distance Analysis of Crash Events**
- **Examination of Vehicle Lamps for On-Off Status**



- **Examining Seat Belts for Use in the Subject Crash**
- **Who Was Driving? Determining Seating Positions**
- **Examining Crash Vehicles for Force Lines, Contributing Factors and Defects**



- **Properly Marking a Scene for Further Investigation**



- **Interviewing Drivers and Witnesses**
- **Air Bag Module Crash Data Retrieval (familiarization)**

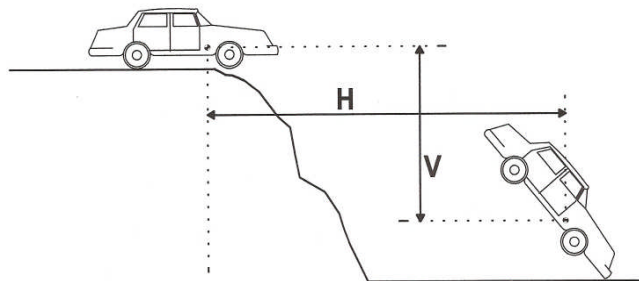


- **Screening with the District Attorney**
- **Using Your Evidence Technicians Effectively**
- **Scene Photography**
- **An Exposure to the Principle of Linear Momentum**
- **Specialized Traffic Crash Situations:**
  - Single Vehicle into Roadside Obstacle Crash**
  - Single Vehicle Overturn and Tumble**
  - Multiple Vehicle Crashes**



**Pedestrian Crashes**  
**Motorcycle Crashes**  
**Heavy Truck and Bus Crashes**  
**Airborne Situations**

#### **AIRBORNE ILLUSTRATION**



**H = Horizontal**  
**V = Vertical**

#### **Combinations**

The full two week traffic homicide curriculum includes time outside the classroom in the field actually examining crash cars, and doing hands on skid testing and tire mark evaluation. Representatives from the District Attorney's office and the Coroner's Office will most likely address the officers as well during the course.

*What are the advantages of our training curriculum?* Simply put, the major benefits are **convenience** and **cost**.

**Convenience** . . . We bring the training to you and schedule it to your needs. In addition to the full two week traffic homicide investigation course, we can tailor in-service training to fit your department shift and training day schedules. We can provide single topic, single day sessions, or even two or three day multiple topic sessions. In this way, your officers can be trained without sacrificing coverage or incurring overtime pay burdens. We can even schedule multiple sessions for your training days over a matter of weeks or months that will ultimately constitute the full two week course, complete with final exam and certificate of completion.

**Cost** . . . We try to make the training affordable. First, since we bring the training course to your area, there is no long distance travel required. No traveling hundreds of miles to an institute with substantial fuel expense. No lodging costs or air fares. Even if another department in your area is hosting the course, travel costs and time demands should be minimal. We can work with you to schedule your school in such a way that your department can actually host the course and train your officers at no cost to your agency. Your department can host the course and invite officers from other departments around yours that will defray the cost. When you recruit 20 officers from other departments who pay the course tuition, you are invited to place 5 of your officers in the course free of charge. Your agency's only obligation would be to provide:

- ✓ Classroom space (preferably with PowerPoint projection capability)
- ✓ A Skid Pad (open parking lot) space
- ✓ A police vehicle for instrumented (non-destructive) braking tests
- ✓ To coordinate the recruiting of multiple agency attendees, if desired.
- ✓ Photocopy capability on site preferred, for daily incidental needs

**We provide all written materials, as well as a binder, note pad and writing implements for each student. Each student is responsible for bringing the following to class:**

- ✓ A traffic template (IPTM or Northwestern, but IPTM Blue Blitz is preferred)
- ✓ A scientific calculator (Texas Instruments TI30 or similar is suggested)
- ✓ A good quality drafting compass (available at most office supply and art stores)

**This is an example of the approximate tuition and cost breakdown for the two week course:**

- The cost for the two instructors is **\$2500** per week, or **\$1250** for each instructor per week. This cost is fixed, and it is based on a class size of 20-25 officers. It does not go up with increase in the number of officers attending. However, we discourage a class size of over 30 due to limited opportunity to interact one on one with students and to address problems. If we are contracted to train a smaller class size, we will

negotiate our fees in light of the needs and the individual situation. Printed materials costs are included in the instructor fees. If the host department sets the school at a location more than 75 miles from Birmingham, the host department would be responsible for lodging for the instructors. The instructors would share a room. (We're not fancy. Any decent motel room will suffice!.)

- If you host **20** officers from neighboring departments at **\$320** each, **\$6400** will be taken in.
- After the instructor fees are paid, **\$1400** remains and will be retained by your department to be used as you see fit.
- In addition, you are welcome to register **5** of your agency's officers for the course at no charge.
- Your department would realize a cash and training value of **\$3000** for hosting the school.

## **The Instructors**

### ***William J. Griffin***

Jim is veteran of 24 and a half years service with the Birmingham Police Department, and is still in active police service with the Fultondale, Alabama Police Department. While with the BPD, Jim was the primary serious crash investigator for many years, and has devoted himself to increasing his knowledge and abilities. Many times, he has funded his own training, and continues to do so. Jim is an experienced crash investigator, traffic crash reconstructionist and classroom instructor. As he is DOT trained and certified in commercial vehicle inspection, he brings a lot to the table as a technician and as a teacher. He is accredited through ACTAR, a respected reconstruction peer review group, and is a member of a number of recognized crash field related professional organizations. Jim owns and operates a private practice traffic crash investigation consulting business as well. In addition to being very proficient in field applications of all traffic crash protocols, he is well versed in computer assisted analysis, and can advise in possible software applications for your department. Jim is strongly committed to advancing the quality of police traffic crash investigation in our state and region. He is currently preparing to train in ACM Crash Data Retrieval in October 2008.

### ***Clifford A. Prosser***

Cliff is also a veteran of police service, having served with the U.S. Army Military Police Corps during the Vietnam era, and with the Birmingham Police Department for 14 years. He was accredited by Police Minimum Standards Commission, and taught accident investigation in the Birmingham Police Academy during his tour of duty. In addition to academy duties, he was the primary serious and fatal on-call crash investigator for the department. Cliff continues to teach Birmingham in-service officers annually as an invited guest instructor. He has been in private practice full time since 1991, and continues to teach annually in the traffic homicide curriculum. He is an experienced traffic homicide investigator, and continues to assist the Jefferson County District attorney's office in development of some of their prosecutions. Cliff is a member of a number of respected regional and national professional organizations. His private

practice includes civil liability evaluation of personal injury traffic crashes, preliminary evaluation of product liability crash cases, and criminal defense traffic cases. In addition to all traditional crash investigation functions, he is trained and certified in Crash Data Retrieval, and retrains frequently to stay on the cutting edge of this important and helpful new technology. Cliff is a published author, having had two books reviewed, accepted and published by the Institute of Police Technology and Management:

**Traffic Crash Scene Response ; A Guide for the Field Officer** - Published in 2007, it is currently available through the IPTM publications section and in their campus book store. This is a basic “checklist” guide for handling crash scenes, vehicles, drivers and witnesses, and contains valuable information for conducting primary investigations of single vehicle and multiple vehicle crashes, heavy truck crashes, pedestrian accidents, motorcycle collisions and even airborne crash situations.

This book is the basic text for the primary scene response section of the THI curriculum, but is accompanied by many supplemental hand outs and illustrations.

**The Young Driver’s Primer ; Know Your Limitations** - Has been accepted for publication by IPTM, and should be print ready and available this fall. This publication simplifies the laws of physics with regard to vehicle and occupant motion for young drivers to understand them and apply them to the driving environment. A Teen Driver’s Workshop, with classroom instruction and field exercises, is available in conjunction with this curriculum.

Both of these men are available to meet with you and to help you evaluate the benefit of this training to your agency, and to assist you in scheduling and planning.

With the increased focus on the potential criminality of traffic crashes and the need to screen them for possible prosecution action, we know that you can see the importance of having officers who are more comfortable in this environment. Agencies are being scrutinized much more closely in their handling of serious and fatal traffic crashes. We are committed, as we expect that you are, to performing these investigation tasks well and providing leadership in this area.

In addition to quality classroom and field instruction , as well as one-on-one help where needed, both instructors will be available at no additional cost after completion of the course to assist officers with live crashes after they return to work. This includes courtesy assistance with crash data downloads from supported vehicles. We feel that this follow up support is important, as the officers get their footing in the real world with their new found knowledge and abilities. Classroom protocols and exercises can seem very clinical, and there is sometimes a “learning curve” that continues into the application of the principles learned to live crashes. We are happy to assist with this.

There is one more valuable benefit of our course to your agency. Upon completion of the two week THI course, every officer should be sufficiently trained through a great majority of what is normally referred to as Advanced At-Scene Traffic Crash Investigation, and is

well positioned to move onward and upward toward future crash reconstruction training. We highly advise this. We recommend that officers desiring to go to reconstruction training also attend a formal Advanced At-Scene Crash Investigation course at IPTM or Northwestern to obtain an in-depth familiarity and capability with the concept of Conservation of Linear Momentum. This, in addition to energy applications, is critical in crash reconstruction courses. Our THI course is a very strong and affordable pre-cursor to these two steps. After attending our course, your officers should be able to prepare a complete and strong investigation file that will allow informed and efficient screening of potential homicide traffic cases with your local district attorney's office.

Please feel free to contact us to assist you in strengthening your agency's skill level in this most important field.

With warmest regards,

Cliff Prosser

*CProsser*

Jim Griffin

*WJGriffin*



*Traffic Accident Consulting Services*