



**Las Cruces Police Department**  
**GENERAL ORDERS**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS VOLUME 2**  
**GO-275 HIT AND RUN CRASH INVESTIGATIONS**  
**Revised 5/13/2005**

**275 HIT AND RUN CRASH INVESTIGATIONS**

**POLICY**

In addition to requirements established in G.O. 276, the procedures in this directive will apply to all hit and run crashes.

**275.01 ACTIONS AT THE SCENE**

- A. Obtain and broadcast a description of the hit and run vehicle, its driver and occupants as soon as possible.
- B. Concentrate on witnesses who can identify the driver and vehicle.
- C. Thoroughly check the scene for any physical evidence. Make note in the report of all evidence found and turned in to the Evidence Unit.
- D. Conduct a neighborhood check for additional witnesses and information.
- E. Obtain home and work telephone numbers of victims, witnesses and suspects (i.e. anyone involved in the investigation).

**275.02 DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING WITNESSES**

Location: Where was the witness in relation to the point of impact? Could the witness have seen what took place?

Observation: What occurred to bring the crash to the attention of the witness? Were there any unusual actions on the part of those involved?

Identification: Can the witness identify the parties in the crash? Did the witness overhear any conversation or engage in conversation with any of the parties?

**275.03 FOLLOW UP**

- A. If a suspect address is developed, attempt to make contact at that address and document any information gathered.
- B. If contact is made with the hit and run vehicle and / or driver, officers will make every attempt to collect, photograph and complete the crash investigation as necessary at the time.



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- C. Attempt to contact neighbors of the suspect and document any information obtained.
- D. If the hit and run vehicle is impounded, ensure that the report is completed and sent to the Records Unit prior to going off shift. The Records Unit will ensure that a copy of the crash report is provided to the Traffic Unit for investigation in a timely manner.
- E. Run registration on all hit and run suspect vehicles. Attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle by driving to the registered address (if outside the city limits supervisory approval must be obtained). Document efforts to contact the suspect and vehicle in the crash report and submit the report prior to going off shift.

**275.04 INVESTIGATIVE POLICY**

Section 27-12-4-6 for the Uniform Traffic Ordinance requires that every driver involved in a crash resulting in injury or death of any person, or property damage to an apparent extent of \$500 of damage or more, to immediately-by the quickest means of communication-give notice of such action to the police department.

When two persons are involved in such a crash and mutually agree to exchange information and leave the scene, both parties have violated section 27-12-4-6. If one of the parties involved later contacts the police department to request a report, that person should be advised that he / she will have to contact the other party involved. Both drivers should then appear together with the vehicles involved.

The reporting officer will then complete a uniform crash report based on the testimony of both drivers and any physical evidence found on the vehicles. Drivers should be required to provide a valid drivers license, current proof of insurance, and vehicle registration. Issuance of citations for contributing factor violations will be at the officer's discretion. Citations for violation of section 27-12-4-6 shall be issued to both drivers.

In the case of a crash when one driver immediately reports the crash to the police department and advises that the other person refused to stay at the scene (whether or not the second driver provides his or her name to the first driver) a report will be prepared. The reporting officer should contact the other driver to complete the initial crash report and shall issue all appropriate citations including 27-12-4-6, Immediate Notice of Accident, to the driver that left the scene.

**275.05 HIT AND RUN CRASH REPORT – BLANK SPACES**

Information blocks on hit and run crash reports will be left blank for data not known at the time the report was taken. For example, if license plate information is not known, the



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corresponding information block will be left blank. Information not known at the time of the initial report will be inserted into the appropriate block by the follow-up investigator when the case is cleared. Every effort should be made by the initial reporting officer to clear any hit and run crashes before the end of the current duty day.