

Driving and Accidents

A lot of time may be spent driving or sitting in your vehicle while on patrol. Members are required by the county to complete a 3-hour driver's safety course provided by the county. Members must contact the Volunteer Coordinator to schedule this training. Many "accidents" occur in parking lots with due to the numerous distractions and children or animals walking quickly in between cars. You are required to carry your driver's license, proof of valid insurance and vehicle registration with you at all times when driving. If you are involved in an accident, respond as appropriate in regard to injuries, calling 911 or the non-emergency number and rendering aid if necessary. If the Dispatcher says a deputy isn't necessary in the event of a small "fender bender", advise the Dispatcher that you are a county Citizen Patrol volunteer and that *a deputy is required to respond to the scene*. Be sure to document the deputy's name and contact information.

You must also exchange insurance information as required by law. If you're driving the county-owned Citizen Patrol car, the vehicle is self-insured through the county. If you have difficulty exchanging information due to a language barrier or an irate citizen, call 911 or the non-emergency number as appropriate. Seek out any witnesses and document their information or any statement made by the other driver or passengers. Take photos of any damage. Even if you believe the accident was your fault, wait to make statements to the responding law enforcement officer. Sometimes memory after a frightening or traumatic event is not entirely accurate. Also, it's not abnormal for persons involved in a crash to file false claims of damage or injury.

After the accident, report the incident to the liaison deputy and the Volunteer Services Unit.



Two teenagers survived this crash into a guardrail by ducking just prior to impact

The Citizen Patrol was assigned a decommissioned patrol car in July 2013. Members are authorized to drive the car after completing a cone safety course and braking exercise along with a short written test. You must possess a valid driver's license. The car is stored at the Springdale County Roads Shop. As with normal patrols, solo patrols are not authorized. Please contact the Liaison Deputy or one of the designated cone course instructors to take the driving test and to learn the vehicle sign-out and fueling procedure.



Cone Course- slalom, parallel parking, braking, backing



Traffic control at a vehicle crash