

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

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POLICE VEHICLE SAFETY



There have been many recent accidents involving police officers in their patrol cars hit by passing vehicles while the officers are in the car conducting police business. Luckily, the injuries have been relatively minimal compared with the catastrophic injuries that are possible in these situations.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR OFFICERS.

- Make sure officers are wearing their seatbelts at all times inside the vehicle. It is estimated that half of all police officers suffering fatalities in a car crash were not wearing seatbelts. Yates, T. (2014, October 27) *Police Driving: Safety Behind the Wheel*. Retrieved from <http://www.policeone.com>.
- Limit the amount of time the officer is sitting in the police car on the side of the road. (MEL Safety Bulletin)
- Limit equipment in the car. Make sure it is properly secured and if it cannot be secured, relocate it or secure it in the trunk. Yates, T. (2014, October 27) *Police Driving: Safety Behind the Wheel*. Retrieved from <http://www.policeone.com>.

Examples:

- Officer stopped on the side of the road communicating with dispatch when passing drunk driver hit the police car. The officer suffered back injuries and with lost time, pain medications, physical therapy and injections this claim has a total incurred at over \$110,000.
- Officer at the scene of a motor vehicle accident was in the patrol car writing a report when another vehicle crashed into the back of the patrol car. The officer suffered a concussion, upper and middle back injuries, injuries to both knees and a shoulder. The total incurred on this claim is almost \$100,000.