



## East Texas Police Academy Police Emergency Driver Improvement

Regular police and emergency driving is one of the most dangerous and highly litigious activities that an officer will routinely engage in. Additionally, the actual training of students in police emergency driving can be inherently dangerous. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that all safety regulations are strictly adhered to in training.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that proper safety guidelines and training standards are established and complied with during East Texas Police Academy Police Emergency Driver Improvement training (PEDI).

### I. Safety:

a. Seatbelts will be worn at all times during the operation of any East Texas Police Academy owned or operated vehicle, regardless of: whether the student is driving the vehicle; whether the student is a passenger of the vehicle; whether the vehicle is in motion.<sup>1</sup> This requirement applies to vehicles provided by an agency for use during ETPA training, and does not restrict the instructor from modifying this policy to meet the needs of specific, individual driving exercises (i.e. the backing course).

b. Helmets will be worn at all times during the operation of any East Texas Police Academy owned or operated vehicle, regardless of: whether the student is driving the vehicle; whether the student is a passenger of the vehicle; whether the vehicle is in motion. This requirement applies to vehicles provided by an agency for use during ETPA training.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this policy, “operate” has the meaning assigned in Texas Transportation Code §724.001.

c. The use of cell-phones or any other electronic devices during the operation of a motor vehicle is strictly prohibited without the specific and direct authorization of the instructor.

## II. Loss of Vehicle Control:

a. The East Texas Police Academy recognizes the need to train students to meet established training standards in driving techniques that may far exceed their current skill and/or comfort level. For this reason, students will not face administrative disciplinary action for their initial inability to meet established driving requirements. This does not alleviate the requirement that students meet the minimum required standards during testing. During training, it is very possible that a student will temporarily lose control of their vehicle. The East Texas Police Academy views such incidences as training issues that will be resolved through retraining as necessary.

b. Students will *never*:

- i. Operate a vehicle in violation of this policy
- ii. Operate a vehicle with negligence
- iii. Operate a vehicle without due regard
- iv. Intentionally operate a vehicle in excess of the speed limitations established by the instructor.

## III. Administrative Action:

a. It is the intent of the East Texas Police Academy to train all students to meet or exceed the minimum requirements established for training. No administrative action will be taken against students who demonstrate their ability to learn and implement the training / re-training provided by the instructor. However, this policy does not prohibit the instructor from assigned a failing grade to a student that is not able to meet the minimum required standards. In such event, the student will be dismissed from the academy in accordance with ETPA and Kilgore College Policy.

b. The protection of life and property is of the utmost importance. Students who operate a vehicle under Section II (b) of this policy will be immediately removed from training and dismissed from class, regardless of whether an accident, injury, or property damage occur.

c. The failure to follow the directions of any instructor, resulting in any person being placed in immediate risk of bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death, will result in the student being immediately removed from training and dismissed from class.

d. The failure to follow any other provision of this policy will result in disciplinary action in accordance with established East Texas Police Academy policies, up to and including removal from training and/or being dismissed from the class.

#### IV. Non-applicability

Nothing contained in this policy will prohibit or limit law enforcement, or any other related agencies or organizations from utilizing the East Texas Police Academy driving track in accordance with their own directives, policies, or training mandates.