

Sachse Police Department

2020



Department Crash and Injury Analysis

Crash and Injury Analysis for 2020

This analysis was conducted for the purpose of reviewing the Sachse Police Department's Vehicle Crashes and Personal Injuries for calendar year 2020. The Sachse Police Department takes its obligations seriously to provide the most effective and efficient police service while ensuring employee safety. Law Enforcement is a particularly dangerous occupation and while many of our activities are fraught with risks, employees must take every action possible to remain safe and prevent crashes and injuries when possible. This analysis is conducted each year to comply with Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 4.10 and to attempt to identify methods for reducing the number of vehicle crashes and personnel injuries.

This analysis consists of two parts. First is the analysis of all Vehicle Crashes by members of this department, both sworn and non-sworn. The second part is an analysis of all non-vehicle personal injuries occurring during the year. The non-vehicle personal injuries can be any type of injury from straining a back due to heavy lifting to an injury occurring during a scuffle with a prisoner.

Crash and Injury Reporting Requirements

Texas Law Enforcement Best Practice 4.10, and Sachse Police Department General Order 313.00 and 327.00, requires each vehicle accident and personal injury be reported and investigated.

A crash is defined, by TxDOT, as any unintended injury to a person or damage to a vehicle caused while a vehicle is in motion.

Anytime an employee is involved in a vehicle crash, department policy requires a Supervisor be immediately notified by the Dispatch center. The supervisor is required to go to the scene and conduct an investigation into the cause of the crash. If there is significant damage to either the police vehicle or a citizen's vehicle, the Supervisor may request the investigation be completed by a traffic crash specialist or even by another law enforcement agency.

The crash is reviewed to ensure the officer's actions were appropriate and within the guidelines of Department Policy. If the officer violated department policy or state law without justification, a departmental investigation is required and the officer may receive additional training or in some cases discipline up to and including termination from employment. This annual analysis is not intended to determine if an officer acted inappropriately, but to identify department wide trends that may suggest changes in policy, training, equipment or supervision.

Any personal injury occurring on the job that requires any form of treatment, including basic first aid, must be reported immediately. Supervisors must complete the First Report of Injury and forward it to the Human Resources Department through their Chain of Command. Part of this reporting is attempting to determine the cause of the injury and methods for prevention. A copy of this form is maintained by the department and reviewed as part of this report to determine the causes of injuries within the department.

Vehicle Crash Comparison

The Accident Causes are listed below by type.

Cause	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Difference <small>From previous year</small>
Other Driver at Fault	3	2	0	2	1	-1
Department employee at fault	3	3	2	0	1	+1
Total	6	5	2	2	2	0

There were two vehicle crashes recorded during the 2020 calendar year. Of these, one was the fault of the city employee/volunteer and the second crash the other driver was at fault. None of the crashes resulted in any injury to the city employee or other driver. One crash was the result of the other driver backing while unsafe striking the city vehicle. The other crash involved city employee exiting the vehicle and vehicle not being completely in park causing the vehicle to crash into a private fence.

Of the two total vehicle incidents, neither vehicle was occupied at the time of the crash.

Personal Injury Analysis 2020

There were a total of 2 personal injuries reported this year.

The injury causes are listed below by type.

Cause	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Difference <small>From previous year</small>
Assault on an Officer	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fight with suspect	3	1	2	2	0	-2
Dog Bite	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allergic reaction to sting	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fall on ice/mud	0	0	0	1	1	0
Fall on dry surface	1	1	0	0	0	0
Walked into object	0	1	0	0	0	0
Injury during training	0	1	1	2	0	-2
Other	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	4	5	3	6	2	-4

Individual Officer Analysis

While each employee's actions were reviewed immediately following the incident by the department, patterns of behavior can also indicate the need for additional training or supervision. Employees that were involved in multiple incidents this past year were reviewed in detail to determine if any additional training might be required. No employees were involved in multiple incidents.

No officers were found to have violated policy in any of the reported events.

Property Damage and Injury

In 2020, there were 2 accidents, and 2 personal injuries which resulted in some damage or lost work time associated with the incident. These accidents and injuries are summarized below:

Both of the vehicle crashes resulted in minor damage to the patrol cars involved and one involved damage to private property. Both vehicles were repaired and damage to private property was covered by the insurance company.

An officer was assisting fire department personnel in dragging a large fire hose to a fire hydrant for a residential fire and slipped in the mud twisting his ankle. An officer suffered a strained abdomen muscle when he turned toward the passenger seat to retrieve something. Neither officer missed any time as a result of their injury.

Policy Violations

The department policy on routine and emergency driving, including pursuits is reviewed periodically with employees to ensure they know their responsibilities. If an employee is found in violation of a department policy or law, the Chief may decide on an appropriate response, which may include additional training or even disciplinary actions if necessary.

In 2020, there were zero policy violations identified in regards to vehicle operation or safety violations.

Summary and Recommendations

2020 showed no change in the number of vehicles damaged (two) and a decrease in injuries from six to two, and proved to be a year of minimal injury or damage. There are no recommendations for any additional training, policy changes or equipment changes based on the results of this review.

Compiled and submitted by:



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MARCH 1, 2021
Date

Assistant Chief Review:



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MARCH 2, 2021
Date

Chief Review:



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Date