

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL DRIVER TRAINING FACILITY

EVOC BULLETIN

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CRUISE CONTROL

KNOW THE SYSTEM, KNOW YOUR VEHICLE

The concern over cruise control (or speed control) and safety has once again resurfaced; a brief review of the system and its function is therefore in order.

Because so many different designs of cruise control are available, and are dash-, steering wheel- or control stalk-activated, it is imperative that you are familiar with the system in the vehicle you're driving. Without adequate familiarization you may, for example, inadvertently increase speed when you need to decrease it. In some vehicles, wiper activation may cancel the cruise control.

Current SSD fleet purchased Ford Crown Victoria and Crown Victoria Police Interceptors used in patrol are not equipped with cruise control. However, some unmarked CVs and CVPIs may have this system (called Speed Control by Ford).

In general, cruise control or speed control:

- Is best used for flat, extended portions of highway or on long trips
- Can be immediately disengaged by tapping the brake pedal
- Should NOT be used in heavy traffic, on roadways with diminished traction (ice, snow, rain or unpaved), or winding roads

When cruise control is activated, the transmission should NOT be placed into neutral or, with a manual transmission, the clutch should NOT be depressed.

There are many dynamics involved with cruise control and various driving conditions. Abiding by the above guidelines, however, will hold you in good stead and not force you into an uncertain and possibly highly dangerous situation.

Of course, always consult the owner's manual of the vehicle driven.