



Course Announcement

To: All Police Agencies

From: John C. Moses
Director of Criminal Justice

Date: October 1, 2026

Re: **High Center of Gravity Vehicles**
(CJP234-5055, 5064, 5080, 5089)
MPTC Approval #: Pending (8 hours)

November 11, 12, 17, and 18, 2026

Location:

- Wor-Wic Community College
Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy
Guerrieri Hall, Room 203
32000 Campus Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-572-8750

Dates & Times: **Select Only One Session**

- Session 1 - Wednesday, November 11 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM
- Session 2 - Thursday, November 12 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM
- Session 3 - Tuesday, November 17 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM
- Session 4 - Wednesday, November 18 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM

Training Registration:

- To register, email your request to: escjaregistration@worwic.edu

Fees:

- \$36—Participants from Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset Counties
- \$46—Participants from other Maryland counties

This course was developed in response to the growing number of agencies utilizing sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and other high center of gravity vehicles. These vehicles are more prevalent and are being used in all aspects of law enforcement driving. As the SUV has gained in popularity in law enforcement, so have the myths and misconceptions about what these vehicles are capable of and what drivers should and shouldn't do while behind the wheel of these vehicles. With that in mind, this course emphasizes safe emergency driving techniques, understanding the unique characteristics of high center of gravity vehicles and techniques to avoid a roll over.

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the safe operation and control of the vehicle during various driving conditions and maneuvers while recognizing vehicle limitations and rollover risks.

- 1.1 Identify the differences in handling characteristics among SUVs, trucks, and sedans.
- 1.2 Identify the basic vehicle dynamics associated with the operation of SUVs and trucks.
- 1.3 Identify braking challenges and limitations associated with operating a high center of gravity vehicle.

- 1.4 Identify weight transfer characteristics associated with high center of gravity vehicles.
- 1.5 Identify the function of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) in high center of gravity vehicles.

Equipment:

- 1 high center of gravity vehicle for every 3 students

Vehicle Specifications:

- 2018 or newer high center of gravity (SUV or truck) (acceptable - 2WD, 4WD, or AWD)
- Inspect all tires on departmental vehicles prior to arriving for training. If any tires are deemed unsafe because of bald, uneven/excessive thread-ware, or damaged, the vehicle tire(s) will have to be changed or the vehicle may be excluded from participating in the training.
- MCT/laptop must be removed from vehicle prior to use.
- If the computer docking station can be removed too this will provide an extra safety precaution because there may be times an officer or instructor is riding in the passenger seat. While this isn't a requirement it prevents personnel from possibly striking their knees on the docking station. The support pole and wires can remain without causing any issues.
- In-Car cameras must be removed from vehicle prior to use (wires can remain).
- Any equipment in the passenger compartment and cargo area that's not affixed to the vehicle must be removed.
- NO Firearms or additional ammunition can remain in vehicle during use except if the participating officer has a duty weapon secured in a holster to their person.

This course is designed to meet requirements as mandated by the Maryland Police Training Commission and to meet the annual in-service requirements.

Dress Code Policy for Training Sessions at the Academy

To ensure a professional appearance, all in-service officers and staff must adhere to the following dress code to gain admission to any training session at the Academy:

- **Uniform of the Day:** Recommended.
- **Shirt:** Must have a collar; no t-shirts or tank tops.
- **Pants:** Docker-style pants, BDUs, or suits; no shorts or jeans.
- **Footwear:** Closed-toe shoes with socks; no sandals.

Firearms Policy: Officers carrying a handgun on campus must also display their badge in plain view.

Non-Compliance: Attendees who do not follow the dress code will be denied entry to the classroom or range. A report will be submitted to the Chief/Sheriff/Warden/Director outlining the reasons for the denial.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a professional environment.

ESCJA Training Reservation Instructions

1. **Complete the ESCJA Reservation Form:** The fillable form is attached to the announcement email.
2. **Enter Information:** Please type, rather than handwrite, all required information onto the form.
3. **Save and Submit:** Save the completed form and email the saved file to escjaregistration@worwic.edu.

You will receive a notification confirming your seat or informing you if you have been placed on standby.