"On Duty" Traffic Crashes: Causation and Prevention
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Traffic crashes are currently the number one cause of "line of duty" deaths for law enforcement officers. Fatalities, injuries and insurance rates are soaring, and vicarious liability issues for officers and their agencies are always in the foreground. Falling victim to a traffic crash affects every member of an agency and every aspect of the profession, including loss of work time, increased workman's compensation claims, and loss of vehicles in the fleet - factors which also affect patrol coverage. This paper explores possible causations of the crashes, to include shift work, officer fatigue, the lack of recurring driver's training, and the number of distracters in the vehicle. When the causes can be identified, prevention methods can be identified. If prevention methods are identified, the number of crashes can be reduced.