



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE GENERAL ORDER POLICE VEHICLES



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To: All Deputy Sheriffs & Office Personnel
 From: Sheriff Carl E. DuBois
 Subject: General Order - Police Vehicles

PURPOSE: The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the use, maintenance and care of police vehicles and to specify the necessary and authorized equipment in and on police vehicles used by Deputies in order to properly carry out the function of the Sheriff's Office.

I. POLICY.

A. It shall be the policy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office to utilize clearly marked vehicles in the course of routine duties and patrol. In the event an unmarked vehicle is necessary, authorization from a supervisor is required.

II. MARKED VEHICLES.

A. Vehicle Identification

1. Orange County Sheriff lettering on both sides of vehicle
2. Reflective stripes on both sides of vehicle
3. 911 telephone number on rear quarter panels
4. Deputy Sheriff reflective lettering on trunk lid
5. Vehicle identification numbers on front and rear distinctive plates

B. Vehicle Equipment

1. Roof light bar
2. Grill lights
3. Alternating headlights
4. Alternating taillights
5. Drivers side spot light
6. Siren
7. Public Address System
8. Police two-way radios high band/800 EDACS
9. First aid kit
10. Flares
11. Blanket
12. Fire extinguisher

13. Sheriff's line tape
14. Reflective Vests
15. (2) sets of mechanical restraints and (1) set of oversized cuffs
16. Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) with printer and scanner
17. Partition with stationary window to provide separation between rear seat area and front seat
18. Mounting System to provide safe/secure storage of agency patrol rifle and or/shotgun

III. UNMARKED VEHICLES.

A. Vehicle identification

1. One color vehicle, no marking.

B. Vehicle Equipment

1. Dash mounted emergency dashlights
2. Grill lights
3. Alternating headlights
4. Alternating taillights
5. Police two-way radio, High-Band/800 EDACS
6. Siren
7. Flares
8. Sheriff's line tape

IV. NON ROUTINE OPERATIONS.

A. Deputies are to operate police vehicles on paved portions of roadways, parking lots, parks and recreational areas. Exceptions are as follows:

1. Emergencies – when Deputies need to be near as possible to a scene.
2. Traffic stops – Deputies are to pull their police vehicles as far over onto the shoulder of the road as possible without endangering themselves or occupants of the other vehicle stopped.
3. With the exception of responding to calls for service that may require a special response. Deputies shall operate a police vehicle in accordance with generally accepted patrol technique practices.

V. MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION.

A. Deputies are to inspect their police vehicle at the beginning and end of their tour for body damage, tire condition, equipment condition and that all mandatory equipment if present. Any discrepancies shall be reported to the shift supervisor.

- B. Deputies are to check and maintain all fluid levels and advise their supervisor of any service or repairs that may be required.
- C. Deputies shall conduct an inspection to ensure that emergency lights and siren are in a good working condition.
- D. Deputies shall check the vehicle for any contraband that may have been secreted by a prisoner. Areas to be checked include all reachable areas where a prisoner may have been seated. This shall be completed at the beginning of their tour and after each instance where a prisoner has been transported or placed inside the vehicle.
- E. If at any time during the inspection or operation of a police vehicle a Deputy feels that a vehicle is unsafe for operation. A supervisor shall be notified immediately.
- F. A vehicle inspection sheet shall be completed at the end of every tour which indicated the starting/ending mileage and the amount of fuel consumed. Any deficiencies shall be documented on the vehicle inspection sheet and shall be forwarded to the supervisor in charge of the fleet.

VI. POLICE VEHICLE SECURITY.

- A. Vehicles shall not be left unattended with the engine running and the doors unlocked. Deputies may leave the engine running with doors unlocked but they must be within close proximity to the vehicle (i.e. roadside stop, M.V.A. investigation, traffic control assignment).
- B. When a vehicle is not in use, it shall be parked with the windows closed and the doors locked.

VII. SAFETY MEASURES.

- A. Objects should not be stored on the dashboard of the vehicle, or in close proximity to the airbags. In the event the airbags are deployed, objects in the inflation path may become projectiles, thereby creating a potential risk of serious injury to the Deputy or passengers.

VIII. USE OF POLICE VEHICLES / TRANSPORTING NON-COUNTY EMPLOYEES.

- A. The Orange County Sheriff's Office does not as a matter of routine business transport persons in Sheriff's Office police vehicles that are not county employees. Exceptions are those persons committed to the custody of the Sheriff or persons under lawful custody or arrest by this Office.
- B. Situations do sometimes arise which necessitate the transportation of non-county employees in Sheriff's Office police vehicles. Law may mandate these

situations or the circumstances themselves dictate the need to conduct such transportation. Any such transportation of a civilian in a Sheriff's Office police vehicle shall be conducted with extreme caution.

- C. Non-county employees may ride in Sheriff's Office police cars when authorized by a person of competent authority or as part of an authorized program of this Office. Police vehicle operators shall exercise extreme caution when operating a police vehicle with a civilian passenger.

IX. SMOKING IN SHERIFF'S OFFICE/COUNTY OWNED VEHICLES.

- A. Smoking in **ALL** Sheriff's Office and/or County owned vehicles is strictly prohibited.

REFERENCE:
ACCREDITATION STANDARD 42.1, 42.2