

GENERAL ORDER 41.6.1

Vehicles & Equipment

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Designates marking, equipping and use of Springfield Patrol vehicles.

DISCUSSION

The image of any Police Department is dependent on the appearance and quality of its equipment and personnel. Uniformity in the marking and equipping of Patrol vehicles is as important as the uniformity of the appearance and equipment of its uniformed officers. This uniformity allows the community to readily recognize Springfield Patrol officers and vehicles. It also provides assurance that personnel will be able to use all equipment and vehicles, and it guarantees that certain items will be readily available when needed.

POLICY

I

Springfield patrol vehicles are conspicuously marked with Springfield Police on both sides. The back of the vehicle is marked with the word "Police", and "Dial 911," referring to the emergency telephone number. All patrol, except those designated as traffic units, have an overhead light bar with emergency red and blue lights. Each light bar has alley lights on both sides. One or more adjustable spotlights are also on each vehicle.

Inside the front passenger portion of the vehicle are a mobile radio, siren and light bar activator, a PA system, a mobile data computer, and patrol rifle in a gun lock. Officers authorized to carry a patrol rifle shall secure it in a gunlock. The rear of the vehicle has been modified to prevent prisoners from escaping by disconnecting the door lock releases and window controls. Except for the supervisor's vehicle, the rear section is separated from the driver's compartment by a barrier.

II

All vehicles shall be equipped with specific equipment, which shall be replaced as needed. Marked Patrol vehicles shall be equipped with the equipment listed on the Patrol Unit Inspection Form (Attachment A.) It is the responsibility of each patrol officer to examine his patrol vehicle at the beginning of each watch for presence of the required equipment and to ensure that the vehicle is in good condition and working order. Officers shall also inspect for contraband, evidence, or other inappropriate items. Any deficiencies noted shall be corrected immediately if possible, or noted on the vehicle worksheet in the watch commanders' office.

On a continuing basis every patrol vehicle shall be examined by fleet volunteers and/or staff using a patrol unit inspection sheet. The inspection sheet shall be returned to the Administrative Sergeant as soon as the inspection is complete. The Administrative Sergeant is responsible to see that the inspection sheets are completed and deficiencies corrected. A copy of the inspection sheet and equipment list is attached (Attachment A).

III

All Springfield Police vehicles are equipped with seat belts. It is Department policy that all persons driving or riding in a police vehicle shall wear a seat belt. It is the responsibility of the driver of a police vehicle to ensure that all passengers or prisoners are secured with a seat belt prior to transport. There may be circumstances in which a combative prisoner cannot be seat belted safely, but this should be the exception and not the rule.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police

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