

GENERAL ORDER 61.3.5

Radar / Lidar Use

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Governs the use of speed measuring devices in traffic law enforcement including equipment specifications, operational procedures, proper care and upkeep, programmed maintenance, calibration records, assigning of speed measuring devices, and operator training and certification.

DISCUSSION

Excessive speed is a cause of accidents and deaths on our highways. The use of speed measuring devices in traffic law enforcement has become increasingly widespread in order to ensure that traffic safety and energy conservation goals and objectives are met. The Springfield Police Department uses mobile, stationary and hand held Doppler radar speed measuring devices, laser speed measuring devices and calibrated speedometers on patrol vehicles for speed determination.

Effective regulation of vehicle speed requires accurate and well maintained equipment as well as knowledgeable and well trained personnel. Oregon's Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) provides training and certification in speed measuring devices for speed measurement. As a result of training, law enforcement personnel have an understanding of the basic principles of speed measuring devices, including factors which may limit its use; knowledge of the laws, court rulings, regulations, policies and procedures affecting speed measuring devices, and development of basic skills in testing and operating a speed measuring device as well as preparing and presenting courtroom testimony on the use of speed measuring devices.

The responsibility for establishing speed limits and *prima facie* speeds on Oregon highways rests with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

POLICY

I

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

All speed measuring devices utilized by Springfield Police Department shall comply with local, state and federal regulations. Doppler radar, laser speed measuring equipment and calibrated speedometers may be used for speed determination. All equipment shall meet or exceed the specifications of the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

II

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

All speed measuring devices shall be checked for function and accuracy at the beginning and end of each work shift. Tests to be performed prior to use shall be in accordance with operating manual for the respective device. Daily operational records shall be maintained on the back of each citation as a means of preserving evidence.

All speed measuring devices shall be utilized with proper consideration given to site selection, tracking history and problem identification.

III

PROPER CARE AND UPKEEP

All speed measuring devices shall be maintained in good working order. Any speed measuring device found not to be functioning properly shall be removed from service immediately and submitted to the traffic team officer designated to radar/lidar maintenance and calibration records keeping. The designated motor officer, in conjunction with the Administrative Sergeant, shall arrange for the repair of all speed measuring devices used by the Department.

IV

MAINTENANCE AND CALIBRATION RECORDS

The designated traffic officer shall maintain calibration and maintenance records for each individual unit. All records shall be kept in the speed measuring devices manuals located with the traffic unit. Each unit shall be factory calibrated not less than once per every two year period by authorized speed measuring device technicians.

V

Each member of the traffic team shall be assigned speed measuring devices by the Patrol Division Commander. All other speed measuring devices shall be housed near the traffic team desk area. Officers may select any unit for use during their shifts. All units shall be returned to this location at the end of each shift.

VI

All speed measuring device operators must know how to set up, test, and properly operate and read the speed measuring device that is used. Officers must be able to demonstrate proper testing and operational procedures prior to the use of any speed measuring device.

In order to most effectively acquire and accomplish these skills, officers shall complete a prescribed course of training established by DPSST or the Springfield Police Department Training Supervisor in the absence of established DPSST standards.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police