

# Hamden Police Department

## General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 019-001

**Effective Date:** August 01, 2005

**Section:** Traffic Administration

**Rescinds:**

**Title:** Traffic Division

**Approved By:**

**Approval Date:**

### PURPOSE

To establish operating procedures to be followed by members of the Traffic Division.  
Also to establish the chain of command and the responsibilities of the Traffic Division.

### POLICY

It is the policy of the Hamden Police Department to increase and improve traffic services by maintaining a specialized traffic division. The Traffic Division will serve to augment the Patrol Division's effort to enforce motor vehicle laws and investigate accidents. They will also serve as primary investigators for all fatal motor vehicle accidents.

### PROCEDURE

- A. Chain of Command
  1. The Traffic Division is a function of the Special Operations Traffic Division
  2. Officers assigned to the Traffic Division will report to the Deputy Chief of the Special Operations Bureau Traffic Division
- B. Responsibilities
  1. Selective Enforcement
    - a. Selective enforcement will involve identifying problem areas or potential problem areas and assigning personnel to those specific areas.
    - b. Selective Enforcement locations and objectives will be identified by the:
      - i. Traffic Sergeant
      - ii. Captain of Patrol
      - iii. Deputy Chief of Special Operations Traffic Division
      - iv. Chief's Office
  2. Answering traffic complaints of the public
  3. Apprehension of DWI operators
  4. Speed limit enforcement

5. Equipment violations
6. Other responsibilities as determined by the Traffic Sergeant

C. Accident Investigation

1. Traffic Division members will have the primary responsibility for investigation of all fatal MV accidents involving an expected fatality
2. Members of the Traffic Division will, upon request, assist patrol officers in the reconstruction of motor vehicle accidents and/or provide technical assistance, in necessary
3. Members of the Traffic Division will conduct follow-up investigations of motor vehicle accidents involving evading responsibility when:
  - a. The patrol officer is unable to follow-up the case because of work schedules
  - b. The investigating officer has exhausted all leads but believes the special skills of the division could assist in continuing the case
  - c. Requested by the Shift Supervisor or Patrol Commander

D. Other Responsibilities

1. Under normal circumstances, Traffic Division personnel will not be assigned to answer complaints. This procedure may be changed if:
  - a. A true emergency exists and the use of the Traffic Division is the most appropriate response
  - b. Supervisory personnel deem it necessary

E. Traffic Division Vehicles

1. Vehicles designated "traffic cars" will be used by the Traffic Division
2. "Traffic cars" may be used for other purposes:
  - a. During expanded police operations
  - b. If all other patrol vehicles are deployed and more vehicle are needed
  - c. Upon direction of a Shift Supervisor

F. Evaluation of the Goals and Objectives

1. The Deputy Chief of the Special Operations Traffic Division will be responsible for establishing performance objectives for the Traffic Division
2. The objectives will review at least annually and an evaluation of the progress made the attainment of these goals will be submitted to the Deputy Chief
  - a. The evaluation will also include selective traffic law enforcement taken to reduce accidents during the reviewed time period
  - b. Projected problem areas that will need attention in the future