

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 024-06

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Patrol

Rescinds:

Title: Use of Patrol Vehicles

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of vehicles in the Hamden Police Department.

POLICY

All vehicles owned or used by the Hamden Police Department will be operated in a safe and efficient manner, and only for lawful purposes. All persons operating these vehicles will have a valid Connecticut driver's license.

Procedures

A. Vehicle Inspection.

1. Under Normal Circumstances all police vehicles, prior to being operated, will be checked to ensure the following equipment is functioning properly:
 - a. Police radio.
 - b. Emergency lights.
 - c. Vehicle running lights.
 - d. Siren.
 - e. Spotlight.
 - f. Public Address System.
2. The officer will check that all emergency equipment is in the trunk and is functioning properly.
3. The officer will visibly check the vehicle for damage and report any found damage to his Supervisor.

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4. All missing and/or damaged equipment will be noted on the vehicle inspection sheet.
5. The officer will check the rear passenger compartment of the vehicle for weapons and/or contraband.

B. Operating Procedures.

1. Negligent or reckless use of police vehicles will not be tolerated.
2. Unless required for the performance of officer's duties, vehicles shall not be left with engines running and unattended.
3. When a vehicle becomes disabled, dispatch and the Patrol Supervisor will be notified.
4. If a vehicle is taken out of service, it will be red tagged, and a vehicle repair slip will be filed by the last officer using the vehicle.]
5. Officers will not transport anyone in a police vehicle unless necessary in the performance of their duties, or authorized by a Supervisor.
6. All responsibilities placed on the operator of a police vehicle shall also apply to any other officers assigned to the same vehicle.
7. Bicycles or items of evidence may be transported to Headquarters in the trunk of police vehicles. Special arrangements should be made to transport large or heavy items that may damage the vehicle or radio equipment.
8. All officers will give up their vehicles at the end of their tour of duty and remove all trash.
9. Officers will be responsible for refueling their assigned cars during their tour of duty.

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10. Fluid levels, (i.e., oil, water), will be checked by Maintenance personnel daily.

C. Long Distance Vehicle Use.

1. In the event a vehicle is to be used for long distance transportation, (i.e., prisoner transport), it will be checked prior to being utilized by the assigned officers to ensure the vehicle is operating safely and is equipped with the appropriate items. If feasible, the vehicle will be checked by personnel from the maintenance section.