

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<i>Effective Date</i> December 1, 1998	<i>Number</i> GO88-4.2
<i>Subject</i> Use of Police Vehicles		
<i>Reference</i> CALEA Standards – 41.1.3, 41.3.2, 41.3.3		<i>Revised</i> September 28, 2021 September 26, 2023
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I. **Policy**

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department that Department vehicles be properly equipped and maintained to ensure the safety of Officers and citizens.

II. **Safety**

- A. Only sworn Department personnel are allowed to operate Department vehicles, unless authorized by a Division Commander.
- B. No Department vehicle that is operationally unsafe shall be driven. Vehicles with serious mechanical defects shall be towed instead of driven. For example, brake or power steering failure.
- C. Drivers shall not modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with safety belts, emission control devices, or other parts of the vehicle.
- D. Vehicle occupant safety restraining devices shall be worn by all occupants in accordance with directive GO04-4.26, Occupant Protection.
- E. Vehicles used for transporting prisoners shall be modified to minimize opportunities for prisoners to exit from the rear compartment of the vehicle without the aid of the transporting Officer.
- F. Windows and doors shall be closed and locked when vehicles are unattended.
- G. Vehicles shall not be left unattended while the engine is running, except in extreme emergency life and death situations where the Officer can observe the vehicle.
- H. Under normal conditions, vehicles should be parked so that they do not present a hazard to other traffic, and, if possible, they should be parked completely off the roadway.
- I. All Officers shall inspect their vehicles at the beginning of every shift to ensure that all equipment is working properly. Any abnormalities or defects should be reported immediately to their Supervisor, who shall determine if it should be immediately

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taken out of service.

III. **Patrol Vehicles**

- A. All vehicles used by the Patrol Division on routine patrol shall be so equipped and marked to be effective as a highly visible emergency vehicle.
1. Patrol vehicle markings shall include:
 - a. Department name on each side of the vehicle in reflective letters not less than four (4) inches in height and on the rear of the vehicle in appropriately sized reflective letters
 - b. Unit number on the rear and both sides
 - c. Reflective materials on the sides and rear
 - d. Emergency 911 numbers on each side
 2. Vehicles used for certain special assignments in the Patrol Division need not be marked.
- B. Each patrol vehicle shall be conspicuously equipped with the following:
1. Flashing blue emergency light kits / bars
 2. Siren / public address system
 3. Mobile radio transceiver or charging station for handheld radio battery
 4. A safety barrier between the front and rear seats made of wire mesh or heavy gauge plastic
 5. Flashing white strobe-type emergency lights
 6. Spotlight
 7. Safety barriers covering rear side windows
 8. Hazardous warning lights
- C. Each patrol vehicle may contain the following equipment:
1. Spare tire
 2. Jack and lug wrench
 3. Fire extinguisher
 4. Latex or nitrile gloves

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5. Emergency Response Guide Book
- D. It shall be the responsibility of each Officer to ensure that items are replaced / replenished as needed. This shall be confirmed during the scheduled inspection of the vehicle.

IV. **Criminal Investigations Vehicles**

A. Investigative Vehicles

1. Vehicles used primarily by Investigators in plain clothes need not be marked.
2. Vehicles assigned to Investigators shall be equipped with necessary equipment to process crime scenes.

B. Crime Scene Truck

1. The crime scene truck may be utilized at crimes scenes, major traffic incidents, and other events requiring the specialized services of the Department's Crime Scene Investigator. Any other use of the crime scene truck requires the approval of the Criminal Investigations Division Commander.
2. The crime scene truck shall be equipped with appropriate identification markings, emergency lights, interior and exterior lighting, generator, cabinets, evidence collecting materials, and other equipment needed by the Crime Scene Investigator.
3. The Department's Crime Scene Investigator is responsible for making sure the crime scene truck is in proper working order at all times and is properly stocked with sufficient evidence-collecting materials.
4. The crime scene truck requires no special qualifications and / or training beyond a valid driver's license. Drivers should remember the vehicle is oversized in height and width and drive with appropriate caution.

V. **Specialized Vehicles**

All-Terrain Vehicles / Utility Terrain Vehicles and Golf Carts

1. ATVs / UTVs and golf carts may be utilized at crime scenes, major traffic incidents, parades, demonstrations, presentations, and other events requiring specialized services, such as delivering food and supplies, driving presentations, or off-road capability. Authorization for use of the vehicles will be obtained from an on-duty Supervisor.
2. The ATV / UTV requires no special qualifications and / or training beyond a valid driver's license.
3. The Patrol Division Special Operations Supervisor is responsible for making sure

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the ATVs / UTVs and golf carts are in proper working order at all times.

4. The ATV / UTV shall be equipped with appropriate identification markings and emergency lights.

VI. **Use of Emergency Warning Equipment**

The following are examples of how emergency warning equipment should be used.

- A. Emergency lights (blue lights, corner strobes, and / or hazardous warning lights)
 1. Stopping traffic violators
 2. Assisting motorists in roadway
 3. Guarding roadway blocked by debris
 4. Motor vehicle accident scenes
 5. Other situations where increased visibility is necessary for safety
- B. Emergency lights and siren
 1. Pursuing vehicles
 2. Response to emergency call, as appropriate
- C. Public address system
 1. High-risk vehicle stops
 2. Crowd control
 3. Hostage / barricaded person situations
- D. Spotlight
 1. Building checks at night
 2. Traffic checks at night, if there is no danger to other drivers on the road

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

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