

<i>Subject: SPEED MEASURING DEVICES</i>	<i>Page No. 1</i>
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<b>THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>			
<b>GENERAL ORDER</b>	<i>Date Issued: January 5, 2010</i>	<i>Effective Date: January 5, 2010</i>	<i>Order No: Chapter 35.1</i>
<i>Authority: Chief of Police</i> <i>Gregory L. Eyer</i>		<i>Manual Page No:</i>	
<i>Subject: TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT – SPEED MEASURING DEVICES</i>		<i>Replaces Page No:</i>	
<i>CALEA Standard: 61.1.9</i>	<i>Distribution: ALL</i>	<i>Amends: June 19, 2006 Issue</i>	<i>Number of Pages: 5</i>
<i>Related Documents:</i>		<i>Rescinds:</i>	

**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the training, maintenance, and operation for the use of all speed measuring devices including laser and radar units.

**II. POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Thurmont Police Department to strictly enforce the speed limits within the Town corporate boundaries. By this action the overall goal of the safe movement of vehicular traffic will be attained by reducing speeding violations and crashes.

**III. DEFINITIONS:**

FCC: Federal Communication Commission

**IV. PROCEDURES**

**A. TYPES OF RADAR/LASER UNITS:**

1. The Thurmont Police Department will use only FCC and U.S. Department of Commerce approved units.
2. The units will be battery operated or 12 volt DC type and operated with the vehicle cigarette lighter or similar electrical connection.

**B. CARE AND HANDLING OF RADAR/LASER UNITS:**

1. Each unit shall be handled and operated with care at all times.
2. Avoid leaving the unit on for long periods of time as undue wear and tear on the internal parts will occur.
3. The unit or components shall not be removed from the patrol vehicle without approval of a Supervisor, with exception of:
  - a. Removal for repair;
  - b. Patrol vehicle repair;
  - c. Battery operated units will be returned to the storage cabinet in the patrol room at the end of each shift.
4. When not in active use, the units will be kept in their mounts or carrying cases.
5. At no time will the units be placed or kept on the patrol vehicle floor.
6. Any damage or misuse shall be reported to a Supervisor and noted on the proper repair tag.

**C. RADAR/LASER TESTS:**

1. Prior to the operation of any unit at the start of tour of duty, the Patrol officer shall conduct the following tests:
  - a. Check mounting and location of unit and antennae.
  - b. Check all cable connections.
  - c. Check power supply.
  - d. Follow all manufacturer's directions for self test or internal circuits.
  - e. Follow all manufacturer's directions for external and display tests.
2. Retest of unit:

- a. At the beginning and end of an officer's tour of duty.
3. If at any time the unit fails to test properly as prescribed in the manufacturer's operation manual, the Patrol Officer shall:
  - a. Deadline the unit if a review of all prescribed tests still indicate a malfunction; and
  - b. Remove the unit and fill out a service request and list all pertinent information to the nature of the malfunction.
4. The Equipment Officer shall then make arrangements for service on the inoperative unit.

**D. EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND SERVICE RECORDS:**

1. The operating manual for each unit will be kept on file so that personnel can become familiar with each type of unit.
2. The Equipment Officer shall keep records on each unit and accessories as to the calibration dates and all related service records.
3. The standards of the equipment shall be equivalent to or exceed the Model Standards promulgated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (N.H.T.S.A.)

**E. TRAINING:**

1. The Training Officer or FTO shall:
  - a. Assure that all Patrol Officers in the Department are trained and certified on the proper use of each type of speed measuring device.
  - b. Test each Officer upon completion of training on knowledge of proper operation of the speed measuring devices.
2. Citations and Court Appearances:
  - a. An officer issuing a citation for speeding while using a speed measuring device will use the set of guidelines given out during training.

- b. At no time shall an Officer deviate from the target speed on the unit when issuing a citation.

**F. VEHICLE PACING:**

1. All patrol vehicles shall be equipped with a factory calibrated speedometer when used for pacing a vehicle.
  - a. A radar unit shall be used to check each vehicle's speedometer. The supervisor will ensure that these calibration tests are conducted annually. Any problems with either device will be reported in accordance with set policy.
  - b. When pacing a suspected violator, the Patrol Officer will keep an equal distance from the violator for as long as necessary to make an accurate determination of the violator's speed.

**G. LOG BOOK:**

1. All patrol cars will be equipped with a log book or MSP type card which indicates speedometer testing dates.

**ATTACHMENTS :**

**DOCUMENT DATES :**

*Amended Date: January 1, 2009*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Review Date:*

*Rescinds:*

*Order Written By: Lieutenant Shawn R. Tyler*

*Order Edited and Approved By: Chief Gregory L. Eyer*

*Accreditation Standards Included in this Order  
CHAPTER 41 Patrol, 26*