

Traffic

500.1 SPEED MEASUREMENT DEVICE (SMD) OPERATIONS - GENERAL

Agency Content

Definition:

Radar, Laser or Lidar – For the purpose of this policy, shall mean speed-measuring devices (SMD).

Only officers who are trained and possess the appropriate NYS BMP radar or other speed measuring device certification are authorized to operate departmental SMD equipment.

Officers shall use care and good judgment in selecting a site to operate SMD units. Every site should give the operator sufficient opportunity to form a visual speed estimate of a target vehicle.

Do not set up the SMD unit at the absolute start of a speed zone. Set it up within the speed zone.

Be sure that the effective range of the SMD unit being operated does not extend beyond the desired enforceable area of a speed zone.

500.2 STATIONARY OPERATION - 1 OPERATOR

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Be able to observe target vehicle.

Be sure your vehicle is not creating a traffic hazard.

Be in a position to safely enter the roadway to pursue a vehicle.

500.3 MOVING OPERATION - 1 OPERATOR

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Know the roadways in the areas you are working.

Pay particular attention to location of speed signs and speed zones.

Know the location of U-turns and areas that can be safely traveled to allow you to pursue a target vehicle in either direction while enabling you to keep visual contact with the target vehicle.

Speed Zone Operation:

- (a) Be sure that all speed signs in a speed zone are visible and unobstructed and that they conform to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, published by the N.Y.S. Department of Transportation.

500.4 STATIONARY OPERATION - 1 OPERATOR AND PICKUP OFFICER (S)

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Speed Measurement Device Operator

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- (a) When a speeding vehicle is observed, and subsequently measured with a SMD, notify the pickup officer(s) by radio, describe the vehicle and, if possible, the operator or occupants.
- (b) Be in a position to watch the speeding vehicle being stopped to insure that the pickup officer stops the correct vehicle.
- (c) Keep an informal record describing the vehicle, its speed and the time the offense occurred.

Pickup Officer(s):

- (a) Be continually alert for your own safety.
- (b) Be sure that you are always within site of the SMD operator so that there is no doubt that you are stopping the correct vehicle that was identified as exceeding the speed limit.
- (c) Insure that sufficient parking space is available for motorists to safely stop well off the driving lanes.
- (d) As the speeding vehicle approaches, stand in view of your vehicle; give hand signals directing the motorist to stop and indicate a safe stopping place off the roadway. You may use emergency lighting to draw the motorist's attention.
- (e) To reduce traffic hazards, instruct occupants of a stopped vehicle to remain in their vehicle.
- (f) When you are ready to write a ticket, transmit to the SMD operator a brief description of the vehicle and ask for the time of the offense and the speed for entry on the ticket.
- (g) Should the motorist fail to stop, make an appropriate decision on pursuing the vehicle.

500.5 PURSUIT - 1 OPERATOR AND PICKUP OFFICER(S)

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Pickup Officers shall be in a position that allows safe entry onto the roadway to pursue a speeding vehicle.

When the radar operator calls in a speeding violation, turn on vehicle emergency lights.

If the violator does not pull over as directed, safely pull out behind the vehicle and when in position, signal the motorist to pull over to the side of the highway using emergency lights and siren if necessary.

500.6 SMD EQUIPMENT SIGN-OUT & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

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The department utilizes a variety of speed measuring devices such as Radar, Laser and Lidar, that are upgraded as new technology is developed and made available. The specification manuals for each make, model and type of equipment, shall be maintained by the Patrol Services Division, so long as the department utilizes the equipment.

Prior to utilizing a SMD unit, officers must sign out the equipment as directed by a supervisor.

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Proper care and upkeep of SMD units is the responsibility of the SMD operator. When performing speed enforcement, officers shall complete an activity log and document any testing of the unit as required. Operators shall report any malfunction of SMD's to the Patrol Services Division commander by memorandum form (10.1), and take the unit out of service.

Programmed maintenance of the speed measurement devices shall be the responsibility of the Patrol Services Division Commander, or designee. SMD units shall be calibrated, inspected, and repaired when necessary, and records of such maintenance will be maintained, for presentation to the City of Syracuse Court, when necessary.

The Patrol Service Division Commander will ensure that SMD units are calibrated and examined for damage as required pursuant to NYS DCJS, Bureau for Municipal Police speed measurement training.