

Vehicle Use

700.1 VEHICLE DECONTAMINATION

Best Practice **MODIFIED**

If the incident which resulted in the contamination requires an Incident Report (Form 3.6) and/or Supplemental Reports (Form 3.5), then the contamination should be noted within those reports. In all other instances an Inter-Departmental Memo (Form 10.1) will be made by the officer, directed to his/her commanding officer. The following information shall be included in the 10.1:

- (a) Date and time contamination occurred.
- (b) The circumstances under which the contamination occurred.

If contamination of a Department owned vehicle is caused by a person under arrest, a Damage and/or Injury Cost Report (Form 7.1) will also be completed by the officer making the arrest and distributed in accordance with established Department Procedures.

In all cases of vehicle contamination, an email shall be sent to garagehelp@syracusepolice.org with the type of contamination, the C number and the DR number.

700.2 SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES

Agency Content

MOTORCYCLES:

- (a) The Department utilizes solo motorcycles for traffic patrol annually during the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The motorcycle may be assigned to accident scenes, motorcade escorts, and any other situations deemed appropriate.
- (b) Qualifications and Training:
 - 1. Officers assigned to motorcycle duty are required to complete specialized training in machine nomenclature, maneuvering, controlled braking, curve negotiation, defensive driving techniques, escort responsibility, and pursuit driving. Officers must possess and maintain the appropriate New York State driver's license to operate a motorcycle.
- (c) Use and Limitations:
 - 1. Only those officers who possess the necessary qualifications and training to operate Departmental motorcycles may do so. The motorcycle will be used at the direction of the Commanding Officer of the unit to which the motorcycle is assigned. Weather conditions may prohibit the deployment of motorcycles.

CRIME SCENE VAN:

- (a) The Department will utilize a Crime Scene Van to facilitate the processing of major crime scenes or other scenes processed by the Criminal Investigations Division.
- (b) Qualifications and Training:
 - 1. All officers assigned to operate the crime scene van will be instructed in the proper use of the van.

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(c) Use and Limitations:

1. The Crime Scene Van will be utilized to process crime scenes, or any other scene where processing by the Criminal Investigations Division is necessary or requested. The van may also be used to transport personnel to scenes. Only personnel assigned through the Criminal Investigations Division are authorized to utilize the van. The van is maintained with proper markings, emergency lights, siren, and radio to facilitate response to the scene.
2. The crime scene van will not be used for vehicle pursuits.

HAZARDOUS DEVICES UNIT VEHICLES & DISPOSAL CONTAINMENT VESSELS:

(a) The Department has available, Hazardous Devices Unit vehicles and Disposal Containment Vessels for the handling of explosive devices.

(b) Qualifications and Training:

1. The Hazardous Devices Unit vehicles and Disposal Containment Vessels will be under the strict control of the Hazardous Devices Unit. The Unit Commander is responsible for its operation and training of Hazardous Devices Unit members.

(c) Use and Limitations:

1. The Disposal Containment Vessels will be utilized when any explosive device needs to be transported. A certified bomb technician is the only person authorized to use the Disposal Containment Vessels. Improper use could result in serious injury or death. If detonation of any item is required, a distance of 300 feet should be cleared of people for safety concerns. In any situation where the use of the Disposal Containment Vessels, the Hazardous Devices Unit will have complete control of the scene.
2. The Hazardous Devices Unit's vehicles will be equipped with the necessary equipment designated by the Unit Commander of the Hazardous Devices Unit.
3. The truck will not be used in pursuits.

(d) Members of the Hazardous Devices Unit shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of specialized equipment issued to them. Members shall request the replacement or repair of uniforms and equipment that is worn, damaged, or unserviceable, in writing via the Unit Commander.

(e) Members of the Hazardous Devices Unit shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of specialized vehicles utilized for the handling and transporting of explosive devices (e.g., Hazardous Devices Unit vehicles and Disposal Containment Vessels).

(f) All vehicles and equipment designated for use by Hazardous Devices Unit personnel shall be inspected for operational readiness at least monthly. The Hazardous Devices Unit Commander shall maintain a monthly inspection log.

PATROL PRISONER TRANSPORT WAGON (VAN OR TRUCK):

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- (a) The Department utilizes a patrol Prisoner Transport Wagon for the transportation of prisoners in custody. This vehicle may also be used to transport police personnel when needed.
- (b) Qualification and Training:
 - 1. Only members who are qualified licensed operators are authorized to operate the Prisoner Transport Wagon.
- (c) Use and Limitations:
 - 1. The Prisoner Transport Wagon will not be used for vehicle pursuits.

TOW TRUCK:

- (a) The Department utilizes a tow truck for Transportation Division operations. The tow truck may be assigned to disabled police vehicles, accident and crime scenes, and any other situations deemed appropriate.
- (b) Qualifications and Training:
 - 1. Mechanics assigned to operate the tow truck are required to possess the appropriate New York State driver's license to operate a tow truck. Mechanics must maintain the New York State driver's license.
- (c) Use and Limitations
 - 1. Only mechanics assigned to the Transportation Division who possess the necessary qualifications and training to operate the tow truck may do so. The tow truck will be used at the direction of the Commanding Officer of the Transportation Division or the Duty Chief.

EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN VEHICLES:

- (a) The Department utilizes Crime Scene Unit vehicles for use by evidence technicians. Evidence technicians are assigned pursuant to the Department's policy governing the preservation, collection and processing of evidence. Evidence technician vehicles contain specialized equipment.
- (b) Qualifications and Training:
 - 1. Officers assigned as evidence technicians are required to complete specialized training provided by the Department under the auspices of the NYS Bureau for Municipal Police. Officers assigned as evidence technicians must possess the appropriate New York State Certification to conduct evidence technician duties.
- (c) Use and Limitations:
 - 1. Only those officers assigned as evidence technicians who possess the necessary qualifications and training may operate Crime Scene Unit vehicles.

CANINE PATROL:

- (a) The Department utilizes patrol vehicles for use by canine officers. Canine vehicles contain specialized equipment for use by the canine handler and to house the police dog.

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(b) Qualifications and Training:

1. Officers assigned, as canine units are required to complete specialized training as governed by the Department's Canine policy.

(c) Use and Limitations:

1. Only those officers assigned as canine units who possess the necessary qualifications and training may operate canine vehicles.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM VEHICLES:

(a) The Department utilizes vehicles for use by the Emergency Response Team. ERT members are assigned pursuant to the Department's policy governing the ERT operations. ERT vehicles contain specialized equipment.

(b) Qualifications and Training:

1. Officers assigned as ERT conduct specialized training provided by the Department in the use of ERT and Department vehicles. Officers assigned to the ERT must possess a New York State Driver's License, and any other required license in the operation of ERT vehicles.

(c) Use and Limitations:

1. Only those officers assigned as ERT members, who possess the necessary qualifications and training, may operate ERT vehicles.

CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT VEHICLE:

(a) The Department utilizes a vehicle for use by the Crisis Response Unit. The Crisis Response Unit vehicle contains specialized equipment for use by the unit.

(b) Qualifications and Training:

1. Officers assigned as Crisis Response Unit members conduct specialized training provided by the Department in the use of Crisis Response Unit and Department vehicles. Officers assigned to the Crisis Response Unit must possess a New York State Driver's License, and any other required license in the operation of the Crisis Response Unit vehicle.

(c) Use and Limitations:

1. Only those officers assigned as Crisis Response Unit members, who possess the necessary qualifications and training, may operate Crisis Response Unit vehicles.

DOG CONTROL VEHICLE:

(a) The Department utilizes a dog control vehicle for the transport of domestic animals to the city shelter or other approved facilities or for the transport of injured animals to local veterinary facilities for treatment.

(b) Qualifications and Training:

1. Qualification for operation of a dog control vehicle is a valid NYS drivers license and any additional training the Department deems necessary.

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(c) Use and Limitations:

1. Dog control vehicles are to be operated by dog control officers who possess the proper qualifications and in the performance of their official duties.

PATROL RESPONSE VEHICLE (PRV):

- (a) The Department utilizes a patrol response vehicle (PRV) for the purpose of providing specialized equipment to officers responding to, and actively handling critical incidents, when in a patrol capacity.

(b) Qualification and Training:

1. The PRV may be utilized by those sworn personnel who have attended roll training wherein the use of the PRV and equipment has been explained and demonstrated.

(c) Use and Limitations:

1. The PRVs should not be used for off duty or secondary details.
2. Absent an emergent situation, untrained personnel may not use a PRV.
3. To increase the amount of time the PRVs are available, detainees should be transported in prisoner transport vans, when available.