

# St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



DIRECTIVE TYPE: SPECIAL ORDER		INDEX NUMBER: SO1701
SUBJECT: Speed Measuring Devices		
ISSUE DATE: 6/12/17	REVISIONS:	AMENDS/RESCINDS: N/A
REVISIONS CONTINUED:		DISTRIBUTION: A (All)

## I. POLICY:

The department enforces laws and ordinances related to vehicle speed to educate the public and promote public safety. The Department utilizes radar to verify vehicle speeds and accomplish this objective. Marked patrol units are equipped with radar capable of measuring vehicle speed. Procedures have been established to ensure radar units are operating properly so officers can provide the most reliable evidence possible when called upon to do so in court.

## II. PROCEDURE:

### A. Radar Unit Specifications:

1. All radar units utilized by the department shall meet specifications established by the Department of Highway Safety.

### B. Operational Procedures:

1. Officers shall check assigned radar units daily in the manner specified by training.
  - a. All patrol officers shall be issued their own set of tuning forks for use in testing department radar units.
  - b. The internal numbering sequence and tuning fork speed reading must be achieved before the officer attempts to use the radar.
  - c. The officer shall make an initial check at the beginning of their watch and a second at the end of their watch to ensure the radar was functioning properly during their shift.
2. When a violation is indicated by radar, the officer shall:
  - a. Visually determine whether any mechanical or geographic obstructions are present which could give a false reading; and
  - a. Determine whether other vehicles in the immediate vicinity could be the cause of the reading.

### **C. Proper Care of the Radar**

1. Radar units shall remain in their assigned vehicles.
  - a. Radar units will not be moved from one vehicle to another without the approval of the Traffic Unit Supervisor, his designee or the Shift Supervisor.
  - b. All radar units will be cared for according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

### **D. Programmed Maintenance**

1. When an officer notes a malfunction of a radar unit, the unit will not be used for speed enforcement.
  - a. The Officer shall notify the Shift and Traffic Unit Supervisors.
  - b. The Traffic Unit Supervisor, or his designee, shall inspect the unit and attempt to duplicate the malfunction.
  - c. If the unit is found to be malfunctioning, the Traffic Unit Supervisor, or his designee, shall send the unit to a factory authorized center for repair.

### **E. Maintenance and Calibration Records**

1. The Traffic Unit Supervisor, or his designee, shall record pertinent inspection information regarding each radar unit.
  - a. Reports of damage or malfunction will be noted.
  - b. When radar units are sent to repair centers, the Traffic Unit Supervisor, or his designee, shall note the reason for the repair and the fact that the unit was rechecked upon receipt and determined to be functioning properly.
  - c. In this manner, specific radar units may be identified as needing to be replaced, and a record of calibration checks will be maintained for potential court use.

### **F. Operator Training and Certification**

1. Initial training:
  - a. Each patrol officer shall receive initial instruction in the proper use of radar equipment during the police academy. Additional instruction will be given during the FTO program and as needed when department radar equipment is updated and/or changed.
  - b. Field Training Officers will test officers during FTO training and verify their knowledge of the proper operation of standard department radar equipment. The successful accomplishment of this training/testing will be noted in the trainee's Field Training Task List.
2. Certification:
  - a. At the conclusion of this initial training, the Department Radar Certification Officer shall test the officer in the operation of standard radar equipment.
  - b. Upon successful completion of the examination the Radar Certification Officer will forward certification of the officer to

the department training Sergeant. The radar model(s) for which the officer is certified shall be noted on the Officer's certification.

---

Chris Connally, Chief of Police

---

Date