

Chapter 7 - Equipment

Department-Owned and Personal Property

700.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Department employees are expected to properly care for Department property assigned or entrusted to them. Employees may also suffer occasional loss or damage to personal or department property while performing their assigned duties. Certain procedures are required depending on the loss and ownership of the item and officers should consult their contract for reimbursement information.

700.2 DOCUMENTATION OF ISSUED PROPERTY

All property issued shall be documented in the appropriate property sheet or equipment log and receipt acknowledged by signature. Upon an employee's separation from the Department, all issued equipment shall be returned and documentation of the return signed by a supervisor.

700.2.1 CARE OF DEPARTMENT PROPERTY

Employees shall be responsible for the safekeeping, serviceable condition, proper care, use and replacement of department property assigned or entrusted to them. An employee's intentional or negligent abuse or misuse of department property may lead to discipline including, but not limited to, the cost of repair or replacement.

- (a) Employees shall promptly report through the chain of command, any loss, damage to or unserviceable condition of any department-issued property or equipment assigned for their use.
 1. A supervisor receiving such a report shall make an appropriate investigation and direct a memo to their appropriate supervisor that shall include the result of his/her investigation and whether the employee followed proper procedures. The supervisor's report shall address whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss, damage or unserviceable condition.
 2. A review by Staff to determine whether misconduct or negligence was involved should be completed.
- (b) The use of damaged or unserviceable department property should be discontinued as soon as practicable and, if appropriate and approved by staff, replaced with comparable Department property as soon as available and following notice to a supervisor.
- (c) Except when otherwise directed by competent authority or required by exigent circumstances, Department property shall only be used by those to whom it was assigned. Use should be limited to official purposes and in the capacity for which it was designed.
- (d) Department property shall not be thrown away, sold, traded, donated, destroyed or otherwise disposed of without proper authority.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Department-Owned and Personal Property

- (e) In the event that any Department property becomes damaged or unserviceable, no employee shall attempt to repair the property without prior approval of a supervisor.

700.3 USE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

The carrying of personal equipment on-duty or its use in the performance of duties requires prior written approval by the Chief of Police or designee. The employee should submit for approval the description of personal property the employee has requested to carry, the reason for its use and the term of its use. Personal property of the type routinely carried by persons not performing law enforcement duties nor comprising a weapon are excluded from this requirement. The Chief of Police or designee should review the request and approve or deny the request as appropriate.

700.3.1 DEFINITIONS

Personal Property - Items or equipment owned by, provided by or purchased totally at the expense of the employee. This definition includes optional equipment items identified in the Uniform Regulations Policy.

700.3.2 FILING CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Claims for reimbursement for damage or loss of personal property must be made on the proper form. This form is submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. The supervisor may require a separate written report of the loss or damage.

The supervisor receiving such a report shall make an appropriate investigation and direct a memo to their supervisor that shall include the result of his/her investigation and whether reasonable care was taken to prevent the loss, damage or unserviceable condition.

Upon review by staff and a finding that no misconduct or negligence was involved, repair or replacement may be recommended by the Chief of Police, who will then forward the claim to the Finance Department.

The Department will not replace or repair costly items (e.g., jewelry, exotic equipment) that are not reasonably required as a part of work.

700.3.3 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as soon as circumstances permit.

A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off-duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report is made.

700.4 LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PROPERTY OF ANOTHER

Officers and other employees intentionally or unintentionally may cause damage to the real or personal property of another while performing their duties. Any employee who damages or causes to be damaged any real or personal property of another while performing any law enforcement function shall report it as provided below.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Department-Owned and Personal Property

- (a) A verbal report shall be made to the employee's immediate supervisor as reasonably soon as circumstances permit.
- (b) A written report shall be submitted before the employee goes off-duty or within the time frame directed by the supervisor to whom the verbal report was made.

700.4.1 DAMAGE BY PERSON OF ANOTHER AGENCY

If employees of another jurisdiction cause damage to personal property or property belonging to the Metropolitan Council or Metro Transit, it shall be the responsibility of the employee present or the employee responsible for the property to make a verbal report to his/her immediate supervisor as reasonably soon as circumstances permit. The employee shall submit a written report before going off-duty or as otherwise directed by the supervisor.

Electronic Communication Devices

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of cell phones and other communication devices whether issued or funded by the Department or personally owned, while on-duty or when used for authorized work-related purposes.

Device use includes, but is not limited to, placing and receiving calls, text messaging, social media, e-mailing, using video or camera features, playing games and accessing sites or services on the Internet.

702.2 DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Communication device" or "device" refers to any cellular or wireless device used for two-way communications and/or portable Internet access. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, tablets, gaming devices, and laptop computers.
- (b) "Department-issued device" refers to a cell phone or other communication device that is owned and paid for by the Metro Transit Police Department or any other Metropolitan Council division or department.
- (c) "Personally-owned device" refers to a cell phone or other communication device that is owned and paid for by the employee.

702.3 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department allows employees to utilize department-issued or funded devices and to possess personally-owned devices in the workplace, subject to certain limitations. Any department-issued device used while on-duty, or used off-duty in any manner reasonably related to the business of the Department, will be subject to monitoring and inspection consistent with the standards set forth in this policy.

The inappropriate use of a device while on-duty may impair officer safety. Additionally employees are advised and cautioned that the use of a personally-owned device either on-duty or after duty hours for business-related purposes may subject the employee and the employee's device records to civil or criminal discovery or disclosure under applicable data practices laws and rules of civil or criminal procedures.

Employees who have questions regarding the application of this policy or the guidelines contained herein are encouraged to seek clarification from supervisory personnel.

702.4 PRIVACY POLICY

Employees shall have no expectation of privacy with regard to any communication made with or stored in or through Department-issued devices and shall have no expectation of privacy in their location should the device be equipped with location detection capabilities.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Electronic Communication Devices

In accordance with this policy, supervisors are authorized to conduct a limited administrative search of electronic files without prior notice, consent or a search warrant on department-issued or personally-owned devices that have been used to conduct department-related business. Prior to conducting any search of personally-owned devices, supervisors shall consult with the Chief of Police or designee. All such searches shall be fully documented in a written report.

702.5 DEPARTMENT-ISSUED DEVICES

Depending on an employee's assignment and the needs of the position, the Department may, at its discretion, issue a communication device. Department-issued devices are provided to facilitate on-duty performance only. Such devices shall remain the sole property of the Department and are subject to inspection or monitoring at any time without notice and without cause.

All personnel who have been issued an MTPD cell phone are required to carry it when they are on-duty. The phone must be charged and powered on. It is my expectation that it is used for official department business such as email.

Except with prior express authorization from their supervisor, employees are not obligated or required to carry, access, monitor or respond to electronic communications while off-duty.

Should employees engage in such approved off-duty communications or work, employees entitled to compensation shall promptly document the time worked and communicate the information to their supervisors to ensure appropriate compensation in accordance with any collective bargaining unit or other policy.

702.6 PERSONALLY-OWNED DEVICES

Employees may carry a personally-owned devices while on duty, subject to the following conditions and limitations:

- (a) Carrying a personally-owned device is a privilege, not a right.
- (b) The Department accepts no responsibility or liability for loss of or damage to a personally-owned device.
- (c) The device and any associated services and accessories shall be purchased, used and maintained solely at the employee's expense.
- (d) The device should not be used for work-related purposes except in exigent circumstances, (e.g. unavailability of radio communications) or as authorized by the Chief or their designee. Employees shall have no expectation of privacy with regard to any department business-related communication.
- (e) Employees may use personally-owned devices on-duty for routine administrative work as authorized by the Chief of Police.
- (f) The device shall not be utilized to record or disclose any business-related data, including photographs, video or the recording or transmittal of any data or material obtained or made accessible as a result of employment with the Department, without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Electronic Communication Devices

- (g) Business use on a personally-owned device constitutes consent for the Department to access the device to inspect and copy data for reasons that Department may include litigation, public records retention and release obligations, and internal investigations.
- (h) Work-related documents, e-mails, photographs, recordings or other public records created or received on a member's personally-owned device should be transferred to the Metro Transit Police Department and deleted from the member's device as soon as reasonably practicable.

Except with prior express authorization from their supervisor, employees are not obligated or required to carry, access, monitor or respond to electronic communications using a personally-owned device while off duty.

702.6.1 PUBLIC RECORDS

Work-related information including data created, received, recorded or stored on a personally-owned device in the course of department duties is considered government data subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and discovery obligations (Minn. Stat. § 13.01 et seq.).

702.7 USE OF COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

The following protocols shall apply to all devices that are carried while on-duty or used to conduct department business:

- (a) A department-issued device may not be used to conduct personal business while on-duty except for brief personal communications (e.g., informing family of extended hours). Employees shall endeavor to limit their use of personally-owned devices to authorized break times.
- (b) Officers should use only their department-issued device to take pictures, video, make audio recordings, or make copies of any such picture or recorded media. Disclosure of any such information to any third party through any means without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee or contrary to data practices policies and procedures may result in discipline.
- (c) Employees will not access social networking sites while on-duty for any purpose that is not official department business.
- (d) Using any communication device to harass, threaten, coerce or otherwise engage in inappropriate conduct with any employee of Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, or the public is prohibited. Any employee having knowledge of such conduct shall promptly notify a supervisor.

702.8 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should ensure that members under their command are provided appropriate training on the use of department-issued devices consistent with this policy. Supervisors should take prompt corrective action if an employee is observed or reported to be improperly using any

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Electronic Communication Devices

communication device. An investigation into improper conduct should be promptly initiated when circumstances warrant.

If, when carrying out any provision of this policy, the need to contact an employee who is off-duty arises, supervisors should consider delaying the contact, if reasonably practicable, until the employee is on-duty as such time may be compensable.

702.9 USE WHILE DRIVING

The use of any communication device while driving can adversely affect safety, cause unnecessary distractions, and present a negative image to the public. Officers operating emergency vehicles should restrict the use of these devices to matters involving official duties and, where reasonably practicable, stop the vehicle at an appropriate location to use the communication device (Minn. Stat. § 169.475).

Except in an emergency, employees who are operating non-emergency vehicles shall not use a communication device while driving unless the device is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free use (Minn. Stat. § 169.475).

702.10 OFFICIAL USE

Employees are reminded that no communication device is considered fully secure, and that conversations and communications may be intercepted or overheard. Caution should be exercised while utilizing these devices to ensure that sensitive data is not inadvertently transmitted.

Vehicle Maintenance

704.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Employees are responsible for assisting in maintaining Department vehicles so that they are properly equipped, maintained, refueled and present a clean appearance.

704.2 DEFECTIVE VEHICLES

When a department vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of repair that affects the safety of the vehicle, that vehicle shall be removed from service for repair. Proper documentation shall be promptly completed by the employee who becomes aware of the defective condition. Paperwork, describing the correction needed, shall be promptly forwarded to vehicle maintenance for repair.

704.2.1 DAMAGE OR POOR PERFORMANCE

Vehicles that may have been damaged or perform poorly shall be removed from service for inspection and repair as soon as practicable.

704.2.2 SEVERE USE

Vehicles operated under severe use conditions, which include operations for which the vehicle is not designed or that exceed the manufacturer's parameters, should be removed from service and subjected to a safety inspection as soon as reasonably possible. Such conditions may include rough roadway or off-road driving, hard or extended braking, pursuits or prolonged high-speed operation.

704.2.3 REMOVAL OF WEAPONS

All firearms, weapons and control devices shall be removed from a vehicle and properly secured in the department armory prior to the vehicle being released for maintenance, service or repair.

704.3 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Certain items shall be maintained in all Department vehicles for emergency purposes and to perform routine duties.

704.3.1 PATROL VEHICLES

Officers shall inspect the patrol vehicle at the beginning of the shift and ensure that the following equipment, at a minimum, is present in the vehicle:

- 6 emergency road flares
- 2 sticks of chalk and/or window paint
- 2 rolls crime scene barricade tape (1 yellow and 1 red)
- 1 first aid kit, CPR mask
- 1 blanket
- 1 fire extinguisher

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Maintenance

704.3.2 UNMARKED VEHICLES

An employee driving an unmarked department vehicle shall ensure that, at minimum, the equipment listed below is present in the vehicle:

- 6 emergency road flares
- 2 rolls crime scene barricade tape (1 yellow and 1 red)
- 1 first aid kit, CPR mask
- 1 blanket
- 1 fire extinguisher

704.4 VEHICLE REFUELING

Absent emergency conditions or supervisor approval, officers driving patrol vehicles shall not place a vehicle in service that has less than half of a tank of fuel. Whenever practicable, vehicles should be fully fueled when placed into service and refueled before the level falls below half of a tank.

Vehicles shall only be refueled at an authorized location.

704.5 WASHING OF VEHICLES

All units shall be kept clean at all times and, weather conditions permitting, shall be washed as necessary to enhance their appearance.

Officers on patrol shall check out via MDC or notify the Transit Control Center (TCC) upon their arrival at the car wash.

Employees using a vehicle shall remove any trash or debris at the end of the shift. Not public data should be placed in a designated receptacle provided for the shredding of this matter.

704.6 NON-LICENSED EMPLOYEE USE

Civilian employees using marked vehicles shall ensure all weapons are removed from the vehicle before going into service. Civilian employees shall also prominently display the "out of service" placards or light bar covers at all times. Civilian employees shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

Vehicle Use

706.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a system of accountability to ensure department vehicles are used appropriately. This policy provides guidelines for on- and off-duty use of department vehicles and shall not be construed to create or imply any contractual obligation by the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit to provide assigned take-home vehicles.

706.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department provides vehicles for department-related business and may assign patrol and unmarked vehicles based on a determination of operational efficiency, economic impact to the Department, requirements for tactical deployments and other considerations.

706.3 USE OF VEHICLES

706.3.1 SHIFT ASSIGNED VEHICLES

The Shift Supervisor shall ensure a copy of the shift assignment roster, indicating member assignments and vehicle numbers, is completed for each shift and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule. If a member exchanges vehicles during his/her shift, the new vehicle number shall be documented on the roster.

706.3.2 OTHER USE OF VEHICLES

Members utilizing a vehicle for any purpose other than their normally assigned duties or normal vehicle assignment (e.g., transportation to training, community event) shall first notify the Shift Supervisor. A notation will be made on the shift assignment roster indicating the member's name and vehicle number.

This subsection does not apply to those who are assigned to transport vehicles to and from a maintenance facility or car wash.

706.3.3 INSPECTIONS

Members shall be responsible for inspecting the interior and exterior of any assigned vehicle before taking the vehicle into service and at the conclusion of their shifts. Any previously unreported damage, mechanical problems, unauthorized contents or other problems with the vehicle shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented as appropriate.

The interior of any vehicle that has been used to transport any person other than a member of this department should be inspected prior to placing another person in the vehicle and again after the person is removed. This is to ensure that unauthorized or personal items have not been left in the vehicle.

When transporting any suspect, prisoner or arrestee, the transporting member shall search all areas of the vehicle that are accessible by the person before and after that person is transported.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

All department vehicles are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by a supervisor without notice and without cause. No member assigned to or operating such vehicle shall be entitled to any expectation of privacy with respect to the vehicle or its contents.

706.3.4 SECURITY AND UNATTENDED VEHICLES

Unattended vehicles should be locked and secured at all times. No key should be left in the vehicle except when it is necessary that the vehicle be left running (e.g., continued activation of emergency lights, canine safety, equipment charging, extreme weather). Officers who exit a vehicle rapidly in an emergency situation or to engage in a foot pursuit must carefully balance the need to exit the vehicle quickly with the need to secure the vehicle.

Members shall ensure all weapons are secured while the vehicle is unattended.

706.3.5 MOBILE DIGITAL COMPUTER

Members assigned to vehicles equipped with a Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) shall log onto the MDC with the required information when going on-duty. If the vehicle is not equipped with a working MDC, the member shall notify Transit Control Center. Use of the MDC is governed by the Mobile Digital Computer Use Policy.

706.3.6 VEHICLE LOCATION SYSTEM

Patrol and other vehicles, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, may be equipped with a system designed to track the vehicle's location. While the system may provide vehicle location and other information, members are not relieved of their responsibility to use required communication practices to report their location and status.

Members shall not make any unauthorized modifications to the system. At the start of each shift, members shall verify that the system is on and report any malfunctions to their supervisor. If the member finds that the system is not functioning properly at any time during the shift, he/she should exchange the vehicle for one with a working system, if available.

System data may be accessed by supervisors at any time. However, access to historical data by personnel other than supervisors will require Division Commander approval.

All data captured by the system shall be retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

706.3.7 KEYS

Members approved to operate marked patrol vehicles should be issued a copy of the key as part of their initial equipment distribution. Members who are assigned a specific vehicle should be issued keys for that vehicle.

Members shall not duplicate keys. The loss of a key shall be promptly reported in writing through the member's chain of command.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

706.3.8 AUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

Members operating department vehicles shall not permit persons other than Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit personnel or persons required to be conveyed in the performance of duty, or as otherwise authorized, to ride as passengers in the vehicle, except as stated in the Ride-Along Policy.

706.3.9 ALCOHOL

Members who have consumed alcohol are prohibited from operating any department vehicle unless it is required by the duty assignment (e.g., task force, undercover work). Regardless of assignment, members may not violate state law regarding vehicle operation while intoxicated.

706.3.10 PARKING

Except when responding to an emergency or when urgent department-related business requires otherwise, members driving department vehicles should obey all parking regulations at all times.

Department vehicles should be parked in assigned stalls. Members shall not park privately owned vehicles in stalls assigned to department vehicles or in other areas of the parking lot that are not so designated unless authorized by a supervisor. Privately owned motorcycles shall be parked in designated areas.

706.3.11 ACCESSORIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS

There shall be no modifications, additions or removal of any equipment or accessories without written permission from the assigned vehicle program manager.

706.3.12 USE BY COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

CSOs using marked emergency vehicles shall ensure that all weapons have been removed before going into service. CSOs shall prominently display the "out of service" placards or light bar covers at all times. CSOs shall not operate the emergency lights or siren of any vehicle unless expressly authorized by a supervisor.

706.4 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ASSIGNMENT TO VEHICLES

Department vehicles may be assigned to individual members at the discretion of the Chief of Police. Vehicles may be assigned for on-duty and/or take-home use. Assigned vehicles may be changed at any time. Permission to take home a vehicle may be withdrawn at any time.

The assignment of vehicles may be suspended when the member is unable to perform his/her regular assignment.

706.4.1 ON-DUTY USE

Vehicle assignments shall be based on the nature of the member's duties, job description and essential functions, and employment or appointment status. Vehicles may be reassigned or utilized by other department members at the discretion of the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

706.4.2 UNSCHEDULED TAKE-HOME USE

Circumstances may arise where department vehicles must be used by members to commute to and from a work assignment. Members may take home department vehicles only with prior approval of a supervisor and shall meet the following criteria:

- (a) The circumstances are unplanned and were created by the needs of the Department.
- (b) Other reasonable transportation options are not available.
- (c) The member lives within a reasonable distance (generally not to exceed a 60-minute drive time) of the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit jurisdiction.
- (d) Off-street parking will be available at the member's residence.
- (e) Vehicles will be locked when not attended.
- (f) All firearms, weapons and control devices will be removed from the interior of the vehicle and properly secured in the residence when the vehicle is not attended, unless the vehicle is parked in a locked garage.

706.4.3 ASSIGNED VEHICLES

Assignment of take-home vehicles shall be based on the location of the member's residence; the nature of the member's duties, job description and essential functions; and the member's employment or appointment status. Residence in the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit jurisdiction is a prime consideration for assignment of a take-home vehicle. Members who reside outside the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit area may be required to secure the vehicle at a designated location or the Department at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Department members may be required to sign a take-home vehicle agreement that outlines certain standards, including, but not limited to, how the vehicle shall be used, where it shall be parked when the member is not on-duty, vehicle maintenance responsibilities and member enforcement actions.

Members are cautioned that under federal and local tax rules, personal use of a Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit vehicle may create an income tax liability for the member. Questions regarding tax rules should be directed to the member's tax adviser.

Criteria for use of take-home vehicles include the following:

- (a) Vehicles shall only be used for work-related purposes and shall not be used for personal errands or transports, unless special circumstances exist and the Chief of Police or designee gives authorization.
- (b) Vehicles may be used to transport the member to and from the member's residence for work-related purposes.
- (c) Vehicles will not be used when off-duty except:
 - 1. In circumstances when a member has been placed on call by the Chief of Police or designee and there is a high probability that the member will be called back to duty.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

2. When the member is performing a work-related function during what normally would be an off-duty period, including vehicle maintenance or traveling to or from a work-related activity or function.
 3. When the member has received permission from the Chief of Police or designee.
 4. When the vehicle is being used by the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Captains or members who are in on-call administrative positions.
 5. When the vehicle is being used by on-call investigators.
- (d) While operating the vehicle, authorized members will carry and have accessible their duty firearms and be prepared to perform any function they would be expected to perform while on-duty.
- (e) The two-way communications radio, MDC and global positioning satellite device, if equipped, must be on and set to an audible volume when the vehicle is in operation.
- (f) Unattended vehicles are to be locked and secured at all times.
1. No key should be left in the vehicle except when it is necessary that the vehicle be left running (e.g., continued activation of emergency lights, canine safety, equipment charging).
 2. All weapons shall be secured while the vehicle is unattended.
 3. All department identification, portable radios and equipment should be secured.
- (g) Vehicles are to be parked off-street at the member's residence unless prior arrangements have been made with the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. If the vehicle is not secured inside a locked garage, all firearms and kinetic impact weapons shall be removed and properly secured in the residence (see the Firearms Policy regarding safe storage of firearms at home).
- (h) Vehicles are to be secured at the member's residence or the appropriate department facility, at the discretion of the Department when a member will be away (e.g., on vacation) for periods exceeding one week.
1. If the vehicle remains at the residence of the member, the Department shall have access to the vehicle.
 2. If the member is unable to provide access to the vehicle, it shall be parked at the Department.
- (i) The member is responsible for the care and maintenance of the vehicle.

706.4.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

When driving a take-home vehicle to and from work outside of the jurisdiction of the Metro Transit Police Department or while off-duty, an officer shall not initiate enforcement actions except in those circumstances where a potential threat to life or serious property damage exists (see the Off-Duty Law Enforcement Actions and Law Enforcement Authority policies).

Officers may render public assistance when it is deemed prudent (e.g., to a stranded motorist).

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

Officers driving take-home vehicles shall be armed, appropriately attired and carry their department-issued identification. Officers should also ensure that department radio communication capabilities are maintained to the extent feasible.

706.4.5 MAINTENANCE

Members are responsible for the cleanliness (exterior and interior) and overall maintenance of their assigned vehicles. Cleaning and maintenance supplies will be provided by the Department. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in discipline and loss of vehicle assignment. The following should be performed as outlined below:

- (a) Members shall make daily inspections of their assigned vehicles for service/maintenance requirements and damage.
- (b) It is the member's responsibility to ensure that his/her assigned vehicle is maintained according to the established service and maintenance schedule.
- (c) All scheduled vehicle maintenance and car washes shall be performed as necessary at a facility approved by the department.
- (d) The Department shall be notified of problems with the vehicle and approve any major repairs before they are performed.
- (e) All weapons shall be removed from any vehicle left for maintenance.
- (f) Supervisors shall make, at a minimum, monthly inspections of vehicles assigned to members under their command to ensure the vehicles are being maintained in accordance with this policy.

706.5 UNMARKED VEHICLES

Unmarked vehicles are assigned to various commands and their use is restricted to the respective command and the assigned member, unless otherwise approved by a supervisor. Any use of unmarked vehicles by those who are not assigned to the command to which the vehicle is assigned shall also be recorded with the Shift Supervisor on the shift assignment roster.

706.6 OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Off-road vehicle (ORV) riders will, as always, use due regard in accordance with authorized emergency and law enforcement vehicles. All emergency equipment should be activated when responding to an emergency call. ORVs are not authorized for use of pursuits of motor vehicles.

The areas to be patrolled will be designated by the Chief of Police or his designee. These areas include, but are not limited to, rail lines and transit routes. The ORVs may be used by the patrol division but should not be considered as primary patrol vehicles.

ORVs may be used for various special events/details and beat assignments. This assignment will come from patrol lieutenants, the special events lieutenant, or the Patrol Captain.

There will be no leisure riding of ORVs.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

706.6.1 TRAINING

Prior to operating an ORV, officers must successfully complete the requirements of the departmental training course

706.6.2 PRE-SHIFT INSPECTION

Each officer will be knowledgeable of ORVs and the safety procedures associated with them. Prior to duty on an ORV, each officer must perform a pre-ride inspection of the ORV in accordance with training.

The ORV will not be operated if any condition exists which affects the safety of the unit or could cause damage to the vehicle if not repaired prior to operation. Any problems or maintenance issues will be reported to the Fleet Manager in writing via e-mail.

706.6.3 ORV OPERATION

Officers will use caution at all times when riding ORVs. This term means taking the environment, turf, grass around buildings, and land surface into consideration when operating an ORV.

Any non-professional operation of the ORVs ("horseplay," intentional destruction of property/turf/trees, intentional destruction of the ORV, or reckless behavior) will not be tolerated. Any such conduct will be reported immediately to the officer's immediate supervisor. All privileges to operate ORVs may be immediately suspended and the officer may be required to attend remedial training. Officers may also be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Department.

No employees or members of the public are permitted to ride in the bed of the ORV. If exigent circumstances exist, injured persons may be evacuated in the bed to a safe scene. Officers will notify a supervisor upon doing so.

In the event of an accident involving an ORV, the driver will notify an immediate supervisor and make an accident report.

706.6.4 POST-SHIFT PROCEDURES

At the end of duty, the officer operating the ORV will re-fuel as well as clean/rinse any dirt, dust, or mud collected during tour of duty. The ORV will be parked at West Command the locked and gated area. Keys are to then be placed back in the key lock box for the next officer to obtain.

706.7 DAMAGE, ABUSE AND MISUSE

When any department vehicle is involved in a traffic collision or otherwise incurs damage, the involved member shall promptly notify a supervisor. Any collision report shall be filed with the agency having jurisdiction (see the Traffic Collisions Policy).

Damage to any department vehicle that was not caused by a traffic collision shall be immediately reported during the shift in which the damage was discovered, documented in memorandum format and forwarded to the Shift Supervisor. An administrative investigation should be initiated to determine if there has been any vehicle abuse or misuse.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Vehicle Use

To avoid engine damage in torrential downpours, please avoid driving in water more than 8 inches deep, slow down when driving through standing water and **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESTART AN ENGINE STALLED DUE TO WATER.**

706.8 TOLL ROADS

Law enforcement vehicles are not routinely exempt from incurring toll road charges.

To avoid unnecessary toll road charges, all members operating department vehicles on a toll road shall adhere to the following:

- (a) Members operating department vehicles for any reason other than in response to an emergency shall pay the appropriate toll charge or utilize the appropriate toll way transponder. Members may submit a request for reimbursement for any toll fees incurred in the course of official business.
- (b) Members passing through a toll plaza or booth during a response to an emergency shall notify, in writing, the appropriate Division Commander within five working days explaining the circumstances.

706.9 ATTIRE AND APPEARANCE

When operating any department vehicle while off-duty, members may dress in a manner appropriate for their intended activity. Whenever in view of or in contact with the public, attire and appearance, regardless of the activity, should be suitable to reflect positively upon the Department.

Cash Handling, Security and Management

710.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The proper handling and documentation of cash transactions and the maintenance of accurate records of cash transactions is important to protect the integrity of police operations and ensure the public trust.

710.2 PETTY CASH FUNDS

Employees designated as fund managers and authorized to maintain and manage petty cash funds are the Records Supervisor and Administration Supervisor. These persons may delegate this responsibility to another person in their absence. All funds require the creation and maintenance of an accurate and current transaction ledger and filing of invoices, receipts and expense reports by the fund manager.

710.3 PETTY CASH TRANSACTIONS

The fund manager shall document all transactions on the ledger and other appropriate forms and each person participating in the transaction shall sign the ledger attesting to the accuracy of the entry. Transactions should include the filing of an appropriate receipt or invoice. Transactions not documented by a receipt, invoice or cash transfer form require an expense report.

710.4 PETTY CASH AUDITS

The manager of a petty cash fund shall audit the fund no less than once every six months. This audit requires that the manager and at least one other person, selected by the fund manager, review the ledger, records, receipts and funds, verifying the accuracy of the accounting. Each participant of the audit shall sign the ledger attesting to the accuracy of all documentation and fund accounting. A discrepancy in the audit requires documentation by those performing the audit and immediate reporting of the discrepancy to the Chief of Police.

Should fund management be transferred to any person, each transfer of this responsibility shall require completion of a separate Petty Cash Audit by those persons involved in the transfer.

A separate audit by the Chief of Police or the Metropolitan Council should be completed on a random date approximately once each year on each petty cash fund.

710.5 CASH HANDLING

Money inventoried into the MTPD Property Room shall be deposited into a "Cash Envelope" and the Cash Envelope shall be filled out completely. The Cash Envelope shall be used for all monies whether the coin and/or currency are for evidence, seizure or safekeeping.

For any amount of money, the officer packaging the money must sign/date the envelope.

For amounts over \$250.00, a supervisor must also count the money and initial the envelope, along with the packaging officer.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Cash Handling, Security and Management

Use of the Cash Envelope doesn't relieve the officer from documenting the seizure or incident surrounding the inventory in a Metro Transit PD report. If the coin/currency needs to be submitted to a crime lab for prints or if there are biohazards present, the officer inventorying the items shall notify the Property and Evidence Unit of such.

U.S. and foreign currency shall be placed in separate envelopes prior to being inventoried. Foreign currency shall be listed as having no value.

710.6 OTHER CASH HANDLING

Suspected counterfeit currency shall be placed into an evidence bag and normal evidentiary procedures shall be followed. A Metro Transit PD report shall document the suspected counterfeit currency denominations and serial numbers.

Personal Protective Equipment

711.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy identifies the different types of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the Department as well the requirements and guidelines for the use of PPE.

This policy does not address ballistic vests or protection from communicable disease, as those issues are addressed in the Body Armor and Communicable Diseases policies.

711.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - Equipment that protects a person from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

Respiratory PPE - Any device that is worn by the user to protect from exposure to atmospheres where there is smoke, low levels of oxygen, high levels of carbon monoxide, or the presence of toxic gases or other respiratory hazards. For purposes of this policy, respiratory PPE does not include particulate-filtering masks such as N95 or N100 masks.

711.2 POLICY

The Metro Transit Police Department endeavors to protect members by supplying certain PPE to members as provided in this policy.

711.3 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are required to use PPE as provided in this policy and pursuant to their training.

Members are responsible for proper maintenance and storage of issued PPE. PPE should be stored in an appropriate location so that it is available when needed.

Any member who identifies hazards in the workplace is encouraged to utilize the procedures in the Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Policy to recommend new or improved PPE or additional needs for PPE.

711.4 HEARING PROTECTION

Approved hearing protection shall be used by members during firearms training.

Hearing protection shall meet or exceed industry standards for use at firing ranges (29 CFR 1910.95; Minn. R. 5205.0010).

711.5 EYE PROTECTION

Approved eye protection, including side protection, shall be used by members during firearms training. Eye protection for members who wear prescription lenses shall incorporate the

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Personal Protective Equipment

prescription (e.g., eye protection that can be worn over prescription lenses). Members shall ensure their eye protection does not interfere with the fit of their hearing protection.

The Firearms Instructor shall ensure eye protection meets or exceeds consensus standards set by the American National Standards Institute (29 CFR 1910.133; Minn. R. 5205.0010).

711.6 HEAD AND BODY PROTECTION

Members who make arrests or control crowds should be provided head protection with an attachable face shield.

When officers are working on Metro Transit trains, railways, rail stations, directing traffic or responding to any vehicle crash, they are to put on a safety vest for heightened visibility.

711.7 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

The Administration Division Commander is responsible for ensuring a respiratory protection plan is developed and maintained by a trained and qualified member. The plan shall include procedures for (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010):

- (a) Selecting appropriate respiratory PPE based on hazards and risks associated with functions or positions.
- (b) Fit testing, including identification of members or contractors qualified to conduct fit testing.
- (c) Medical evaluations.
- (d) PPE inventory control.
- (e) PPE issuance and replacement.
- (f) Cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and otherwise maintaining respiratory PPE, including schedules for these activities.
- (g) Regularly reviewing the PPE plan.
- (h) Remaining current with applicable National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protective Agency (EPA), and state PPE standards and guidelines.

711.7.1 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION USE

Designated members may be issued respiratory PPE based on the member's assignment (e.g., a narcotics investigator who is involved in clandestine lab investigations).

Respiratory PPE may be worn when authorized by a scene commander who will determine the type and level of protection appropriate at a scene based upon an evaluation of the hazards present.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Personal Protective Equipment

Scene commanders are responsible for monitoring members using respiratory PPE and their degree of exposure or stress. When there is a change in work area conditions or when a member's degree of exposure or stress may affect respirator effectiveness, the scene commander shall reevaluate the continued effectiveness of the respirator and direct the member to leave the respirator use area when the scene commander reasonably believes (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010):

- (a) It is necessary for the member to wash his/her face and the respirator facepiece to prevent eye or skin irritation associated with respirator use.
- (b) The member detects vapor or gas breakthrough, or there is a change in breathing resistance or leakage of the facepiece.
- (c) The member needs to replace the respirator, filter, cartridge, or canister.

711.7.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Members shall not use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), full-face respirators, or cartridge respirators unless they have completed training requirements for the equipment.

Members exposed to environments that are reasonably known to be harmful due to gases, smoke, or vapors shall use respiratory PPE.

Members using respiratory PPE shall (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010):

- (a) Ensure that they have no facial hair between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face that could interfere with the seal or the valve function. Members also shall ensure that they have no other condition that will interfere with the face-to-facepiece seal or the valve function.
- (b) Not wear corrective glasses, goggles, or other PPE that interferes with the seal of the facepiece to the face, or that has not been previously tested for use with that respiratory equipment.
- (c) Perform a user seal check per department-approved procedures recommended by the respirator manufacturer each time they put on a tight-fitting respirator.
- (d) Leave a respiratory use area whenever they detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in breathing resistance or leakage of their facepiece and ensure that the respirator is replaced or repaired before returning to the affected area.

711.7.3 GAS MASK

Full-face air-purifying respirators, commonly referred to as gas masks, may be fitted with mechanical pre-filters or combination cartridge/filter assemblies for use in areas where gases, vapors, dusts, fumes, or mists are present. Members must identify and use the correct cartridge based on the circumstances (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010).

A scene commander may order the use of gas masks in situations where the use of an SCBA is not necessary. These incidents may include areas where tear gas has or will be used or where a vegetation fire is burning. Gas masks shall not be used if there is a potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Personal Protective Equipment

Members shall ensure their gas mask filters are replaced whenever:

- (a) They smell, taste, or are irritated by a contaminant.
- (b) They experience difficulty breathing due to filter loading.
- (c) The cartridges or filters become wet.
- (d) The expiration date on the cartridges or canisters has been reached.

711.7.4 SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

Scene commanders may direct members to use SCBA when entering an atmosphere that may pose an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere. These situations may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Entering the hot zone of a hazardous materials incident.
- (b) Entering any area where contaminant levels may become unsafe without warning, or any situation where exposures cannot be identified or reasonably estimated.
- (c) Entering a smoke- or chemical-filled area.

The use of SCBA should not cease until approved by a scene commander.

711.7.5 RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING

No member shall be issued respiratory PPE until a proper fit testing has been completed by a designated member or contractor (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010).

After initial testing, fit testing for respiratory PPE shall be repeated (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010):

- (a) At least once every 12 months.
- (b) Whenever there are changes in the type of SCBA or facepiece used.
- (c) Whenever there are significant physical changes in the user (e.g., obvious change in body weight, scarring of the face seal area, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or any other condition that may affect the fit of the facepiece seal).

All respirator fit testing shall be conducted in negative-pressure mode.

711.7.6 RESPIRATORY MEDICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

No member shall be issued respiratory protection that forms a complete seal around the face until (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010):

- (a) The member has completed a medical evaluation that includes a medical evaluation questionnaire.
- (b) A physician or other licensed health care professional has reviewed the questionnaire.
- (c) The member has completed any physical examination recommended by the reviewing physician or health care professional.

Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit PD Policy Manual

Personal Protective Equipment

711.8 RECORDS

The Training Manager is responsible for maintaining records of all:

- (a) PPE training.
- (b) Initial fit testing for respiratory protection equipment.
- (c) Annual fit testing.
- (d) Respirator medical evaluation questionnaires and any subsequent physical examination results.

1. These records shall be maintained in a separate confidential medical file.

The records shall be maintained in accordance with the department records retention schedule, 29 CFR 1910.1020, and Minn. R. 5205.0010.

711.9 TRAINING

Members should be trained in the respiratory and other hazards to which they may be potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations.

All members shall be trained in the proper use and maintenance of PPE issued to them, including when the use is appropriate; how to put on, remove and adjust PPE; how to care for the PPE; and the limitations (29 CFR 1910.132; Minn. R. 5205.0010).

Members issued respiratory PPE shall attend annual training on the proper use of respiratory protection devices (29 CFR 1910.134; Minn. R. 5205.0010). This may be covered during annual fit testing.