

	KENOSHA POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	POLICY AND PROCEDURE			
	17.6 Safe Operation of Departmental Vehicles			
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I. POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to require Department employees to operate Departmental vehicles and privately owned vehicles used for Departmental business in a safe, responsible, intelligent, and lawful manner at all times; to require the use of all available safety equipment in the operation of vehicles so as to provide maximum protection to themselves, passengers, and citizens; and to present a professional image of the Police Department as well as positive example of driver responsibility to the motoring public.

II. SEAT BELTS

Every Department employee, while operating or riding in any departmental vehicle or privately owned vehicle being used for departmental business, shall properly use the safety belt system installed in the vehicle and be in compliance with Wisconsin State Statute 347.48.

A. This procedure shall not apply to departmental employees:

1. Seated in a seating position not equipped with properly functioning seat belt;
2. Makes stops requiring the exit from the vehicle by the operator or passenger more than ten (10) times per mile driven;
3. Who possess a written indication from a physician that for medical or physical reason the use of a seat belt is temporarily or permanently impossible for that employee;
4. When the use of a seat belt would interfere with the performance of some task required to be completed during the operation of the vehicle;

B. Department employees shall require citizens riding in departmental vehicles to wear seat belts.

1. Prisoners in handcuffs and being transported in departmental vehicles equipped with a prisoner screen will be belted in whenever possible.
2. The proper child safety restraints will be used when transporting children in department vehicles.

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III. STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT

Departmental employees shall properly store equipment in departmental vehicles so such equipment will not pose a distraction to the driver, interfere with the safe operation of the controls of the vehicle, or constitute a hazard to the occupants of the vehicle in the event of a collision.

IV. HEADLIGHTS

In addition to the normal use of headlights for illumination during hours of darkness as required by WI § 347.09, departmental personnel will illuminate the headlights of departmental vehicles being operated in traffic whenever maximum visibility of the departmental vehicle will contribute to increased safety of that vehicle regardless of the lighting conditions existing. This will include:

- A. Whenever visibility is reduced to a significant degree by twilight, rain, snow, fog, smoke, or any other condition which reduces visibility;
- B. Whenever engaged in escorts for parades, funerals, walk-runs, joggers, political rallies, or any other function where increased visibility is desirable;
- C. Parking lights will not be used in lieu of headlights when the vehicle is in operation.

V. MOTORCYCLES

- A. Motorcycles will only be operated by officers who have a Class M license and have successfully completed a Police Motorcycle training course approved by the Kenosha Police Department. Protective helmet and appropriate attire will be worn at all times when operating a Police Motorcycle.

VI. UNATTENDED DEPARTMENTAL VEHICLES

Departmental vehicles should not be left unattended with the ignition keys left in the vehicle. Except in emergency circumstances, department vehicles shall be locked when parked unattended, with the windows rolled up to prevent unauthorized entry to the vehicle.