

NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/18/2013	SUBJECT: MARKED PATROL VEHICLES; EQUIPMENT; SEAT BELTS	Number 309.00 (NYSLEAP O-42-1, O-42-2,O-42-3)
RESCINDS: 05/01/2006		Number of pages 2

I. Purpose:

- A. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all officers are aware of the required equipment to be carried in patrol and traffic vehicles.

II. Policy:

- A. It shall be the policy of the Niagara Falls Police Department to maintain emergency equipment in all patrol cars. It will be the responsibility of each officer to check the trunk of the vehicle at the start and finish of his/her tour of duty to ensure that the following equipment is present and in working order.
- B. Patrol Vehicles:
1. The name of the police department shall appear conspicuously on both sides of the vehicle and on the trunk of the vehicle with a numerical designator for each car number marked on the license plate and on the side.
 2. In addition to the agency identifier and a numerical identifier on the vehicle, each marked patrol unit will have on its roof an operating set of light bars and a set of grill lights.
- C. Police Vehicle Equipment:
1. All police vehicles routinely used for general patrol and traffic assignments will be marked and equipped with warning lights and siren. This will not preclude officers from using other unmarked cars for patrol enforcement purposes; however, any such use must be approved by the Shift Commander.

2. All Patrol and Traffic Division vehicles shall be equipped with the following items:
 - a. Fire extinguisher;
 - b. Flares,
 - c. First Aid Kit;
 - d. HAZ-MAT Book.
 3. Unmarked Department Vehicles:
 - a. Unmarked vehicles of the Department may carry any of the above-described equipment, as resources allow in addition to those items necessary to perform their other functions.
- D. Vehicle Damage:
1. Officers will inspect the exterior and interior of their vehicle at the start and finish of every shift and inform their supervisor of any problems. The officer will make note of any damage or missing equipment. This information will be logged by the patrol supervisor on the Supervisory Officer Inspection form and on the Vehicle Damage Worksheet located at the police desk. In the event that the damage was previously unreported, the supervisor shall ensure that the appropriate report is filed by the officer.
- E. Supervisory Responsibilities:
1. The Traffic Division Commander shall be responsible for all equipment maintenance on all unmarked and marked patrol vehicles.
- F. Seat belts:
1. Unless exigent circumstances exist, all department personnel are required to wear seatbelts while operating or riding in department motor vehicles or those of other law enforcement agencies. The belts should be properly fastened.