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**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY MANUAL – CHAPTER 27**

**VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND EQUIPMENT**

**REVISION DATE: 03/07/2016**

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A variety of vehicles are used by police officers and employee in the service of their duties. Marked patrol units will be conspicuously marked to increase safety, serve as a warning to potential violators and provide citizens with a feeling of security. All vehicles will be equipped with the necessary emergency equipment needed to respond appropriately in emergency situation. Other special purpose vehicles shall be equipped with the materials necessary to accomplish Department objectives.

**POLICY:**

*It is the policy of this department that **Department patrol** vehicles are marked and equipped appropriately for responding to emergency situations and assisting employees in performing their duties while in the field.*

**PROCEDURES:**

3. Assignment, Use, Maintenance, and Cleanliness of Department Owned Vehicles

f. Safety Belt Use **(41.3.3)**

- (1) To assure the safety of all personnel, safety belts shall be worn by drivers and passengers in all vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the department at all times. This also applies to the operation of privately owned or other vehicles if used on-duty.
- (2) Department personnel shall use the safety belts installed by the vehicle manufacturer, properly adjusted and securely fastened, when operating or riding in any vehicle so equipped if used while on-duty.
- (3) Lap belts shall be properly secured in those vehicles equipped with automatic safety belt systems that require the lap portion of the belt be manually secured.
- (4) The driver of the vehicle is responsible for ensuring compliance by all occupants of the vehicle they are operating. Approved safety restraints shall be used for all children of age, size, or weight for which such restraints are prescribed by law.
- (5) No person shall operate a departmental vehicle in which any safety belt in the driver's seating position is inoperable. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the safety restraint is inoperable.
- (6) No person shall modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts except for vehicle maintenance and repair and not without the express authorization of the Chief or his designee. Seat belt extenders supplied by the vehicle manufacturer will be allowed.
- (7) Personnel who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.
- (8) Any person(s) under arrest and being transported in a department vehicle are required to be secure in the vehicle by a safety belt in all seating positions for which safety belts are provided.
- (9) When arriving at an emergency call, or making a traffic stop, the operator may remove the safety restraint just prior to stopping for quick exit.