

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LEADING THE WAY FOR A SAFER PINELLAS

IN-CAR VIDEO OPERATION			
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	DISTRIBUTION:	ALL MEMBERS OF THE PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU	POB 50
	EFFECTIVE:	09-24-07	
	AMENDS:	10-24-02	
	RESCINDS:		
	FIRST POLICY:	10-24-02	
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: CALEA 41.3.8 LAST REVIEWED: 09-24-07			

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure is to establish guidelines for operating in-car video systems in all patrol vehicles.

II. DISCUSSION

In-car video systems are installed in selected patrol vehicles throughout the Patrol Operations Bureau. In-car video recording equipment is a valuable tool for identifying criminal activity, training needs, evaluating deputy performance, protecting deputies from false allegations and deterring deputy misconduct.

Deputies shall utilize in-car video camera systems as a primary support tool in capturing evidence of impaired drivers, to record interactions between deputies and the public in their entirety, and to support other enforcement or investigative efforts as appropriate.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Deputies will adhere to the procedures listed below when utilizing in-car video recording equipment.

1. In-car video recording equipment installed in a vehicle is the responsibility of the deputy assigned to that vehicle.
2. Prior to and throughout each shift, deputies will ensure that all components of the in-car video recording equipment are working satisfactorily, and will bring any problems to the attention of a supervisor immediately.
3. Deputies will conduct all recordings with the safety of the deputies and person(s) being contacted of paramount concern.
4. Deputies are encouraged to activate the in-car video recording equipment whenever practical.
5. Even if the video portion of an event cannot be recorded, it may be advantageous to activate the audio portion of the unit to record relevant sounds.

B. Deputies will make extra effort to activate video recording equipment in the following circumstances:

1. Traffic stops – Record the entire duration of all traffic stops whenever practical. Equipment may be deactivated only after the traffic stop has ended and the violator or deputy has left the scene or when necessary to relocate for the administration of standardized field sobriety tests.

2. Pursuits – Record the entire duration of a pursuit. All equipment will remain activated until the pursuit is terminated. Reasonable efforts will be made to record all deputy and suspect interaction in its entirety.
 3. Emergency Response – Record the entire duration of any emergency response. Equipment will remain activated to record all deputy contact with the public at the end of the emergency response.
 4. Prisoner Transport – Record the entire duration of a prisoner transport whenever the prisoner's behavior warrants recording, or there is a likelihood of a future complaint. The deputy should use the rear facing camera and interior microphone for this.
 5. Recording of any activity for evaluation and review of performance of trainees in the Field Training Program.
 6. Recording conversations and video of any hostile or aggressive person when necessary to protect the rights of those involved.
- C. All recordings of an evidentiary nature, or a copy thereof, must be retained pursuant to General Order 7-2, *Evidence Control and Property Procedures*.
- D. All videos will be managed via the automated digital video system. Deputies are held responsible to control security and access to the mobile hard disc drive in their possession. Video retention periods and the archiving data will be dictated by the nature of the video.
1. Deputies will upload their videos at least once a week. Any video that may be of "interest" to staff should be uploaded by the end of the deputy's shift (example: pursuit).
 2. In the event of a major incident, vehicle crash or damage directly to the camera system, the System Administrator should be contacted. The Administrator may be able to retrieve video even if recording has not been triggered.