

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

IN-CAR VIDEO OPERATION			
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	POB-50	EFFECTIVE DATE	10-24-02
AMENDS	NEW	RESCINDS	
DISTRIBUTION	ALL MEMBERS OF THE PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU		

I. PURPOSE

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

II. SCOPE

This order applies to all members of the Patrol Operations Bureau issued patrol vehicles equipped with in-car video systems.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

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.

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. Any recording deemed as non-evidentiary must be retained for seven days prior to disposal or re-recording. Deputies are held responsible to control security and access to all tapes in their possession.