

LITTLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**2 Kittridge Lane
Littleton, New Hampshire 03561
(603) 444-7711**

PROCEDURE #:

SUBJECT: GAS SAVING INTITATIVE

PSS

CALEA STANDARDS:

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Littleton Police Department, and as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a multi-approach plan to lower our fuel consumption as a department and therefore lower costs. This plan was created with input and review from our patrol staff so we could mutually work toward a reduction in energy costs as a group.

POLICY

All members of the Littleton Police Department shall become familiar with these standards and shall abide by them. Violation constitutes grounds for disciplinary action.

PROCEDURE

I. BIKE PATROL –

- A. Whenever possible, the bike officers should be able to be deployed and on their bikes, parking the cruisers to save gas.
- B. It is important that officers and supervisors ensure whenever possible calls are handled either by the officers on the bikes (if accessible) or by other officers so the bikes can stay active and the cruisers stationary.

II. IDLING CARS –

- A. Effective immediately, when a vehicle is not in operation every effort must be made to turn the vehicle off in an attempt to reduce fuel usage. The general rule of thumb for Patrol is if the car is not moving, the ignition needs to be off. Devices have been installed which will protect the battery and shut down electrical systems at a point the battery becomes critical so the car can be restarted.

- B. While performing traffic control details, all electrical components should be shut off including the ignition and only the LED light bar should be left on. (Brief periods to warm up or cool off in the car are acceptable but should be in the order of 5-10 minutes per hour when weather is extreme).
- C. An exception for idling would be very brief stops (and obviously motor vehicle stops); however, meeting with another officer, stopping to do paperwork or stationary time in the car, requires the vehicle to be off.
- D. Standing, unoccupied cars will be shut off. The exception to this rule is during short idle time when active snow or ice would impair the car's ability to respond quickly. This does not mean cars can run for extended times when the car will be stationary. The vehicle's auto theft device system will be activated during this time, if so equipped.
- E. Exceptions: During active, extreme cold weather, i.e. snowstorm, ice storm, freezing rain and temperatures below the freezing marking (32 degrees), Section II, A,B, and C are suspended. The K-9 car (when a canine is in it) is exempt. However, the car should be off at the station when the dog can be brought in.

III. PAPERWORK TIME AND STATION COVERAGE –

- A. In the event, the Sergeant has sufficient coverage and, if calls allow, an officer can be assigned to the station. This officer can take walk-in complaints and phone calls to alleviate officers driving back to the station. This can also be a time to do paperwork. At the supervisor's discretion, if a time consuming call comes into the station, they may decide to have another officer handle it so the station officer can have sufficient paperwork time and continue to handle ongoing calls and complaints at the station.
- B. IMC GRIDS should reflect the officer's location and status to ensure a more efficient response to a call. Supervisors will monitor communications to assist with efficiency.

IV. WALKING PATROLS –

- A. The Main Street, Mill Street and River Walk area should be focal points for foot patrol in an attempt to be highly visible. Other areas may be considered per the supervisor.
 - Day shift, particularly in the afternoon hours (12pm – 3pm)
 - Evening shift (3pm – 9pm)
- B. As calls permit, each officer is expected to perform some documented segment of time (relative to the uncommitted time available) on foot patrol.