

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Policy Manual

SUBJECT U.S. GOVERNMENT VEHICLES	POLICY NUMBER 16.02
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	REVISED DATE 2/5/2018
	POLICY REVIEWED 2/5/2018

16.02.1 Purpose

To provide procedures to be followed when troopers have contact with certain U.S. Government vehicles in the performance of their official duties.

16.02.2 Policy

It shall be the policy of the Georgia Department of Public Safety to comply with established federal procedures, to the greatest extent possible, when they have contact with certain U.S. Government vehicles in the performance of their official duties.

16.02.3 Procedures

A. U.S. Mail Vehicles

1. Arrest of Driver

- a. Drivers of U.S. Mail vehicles, whether contracted or career personnel, are subject to the same laws as other motorists.
- b. In most instances, when an appearance ticket is not issued, the driver, upon arrest, shall be allowed to drive the vehicle as the Trooper dictates to the place of incarceration or other place for disposition of the case except when under arrest for DUI, DWOL, etc.
- c. Upon a U. S. Mail vehicle driver's incarceration or otherwise inability to continue driving the vehicle, members shall so notify the U. S. Post Office in the County Seat of the county where the vehicle is then located, giving location and other information required.
- d. It is illegal for drivers other than contracted or career personnel of the U. S. Postal Service to operate such vehicles. It is also illegal for private wrecker services to tow these vehicles without official permission from U. S. Postal Service Officials.
- e. Members shall insure that the U. S. Mail Seal (a metal strip) is not broken when they first observe it and that it is unbroken when the vehicle is released to either U.S. Postal Service officials or competent law enforcement personnel.

- f. When Department members arrest drivers of such vehicles and do not allow them to drive the vehicle, the member shall stand-by at the scene and maintain security of the mail vehicle until relieved by either U. S. Postal Service personnel or competent law enforcement personnel.

2. In Collisions

- a. If the driver of a U. S. Postal Service vehicle involved in a collision is capable of notifying that agency, then they are responsible for doing so. If the driver is unable to do so, the trooper shall notify U.S. Postal Service officials in the county where the accident occurred.
- b. Security and/or removal of the wrecked vehicle should be dealt with as outlined in paragraphs A(c) and (d), above.

B. Transportation of Government-Owned Nuclear Materials

Requirements set forth in this section are based on guidelines provided by National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), within the U.S. Department of Energy.

1. Mission

- a. To provide for the safe and secure transportation of government-owned, special nuclear materials within the continental United States.
- b. The primary concern is the threat of a terrorist attack whose intent is the theft or sabotage of nuclear material. When advised by a dispatcher that an attack is underway, or if a member comes upon a scene where violence is obvious, call for assistance immediately and proceed in accordance with procedures for handling violent situations.

2. Transportation

- a. The nuclear materials are transported by highly modified secure unmarked, armored tractor-trailer rigs, escorted by armed Federal Agents in other vehicles who provide security and national incident command system response in the event of emergencies.
- b. These Federal Agents, authorized to carry firearms will accompany every shipment. The officers shall be in civilian clothes, possess a photo credential, shield, and shall identify themselves to law enforcement officers upon request.

3. Traffic Stops

- a. The drivers must obey all traffic laws.
- b. If an officer stops the tractor for a violation, drivers shall identify themselves and speak to the officer through the P.A. system in the truck. However, if necessary, the pilot (passenger) shall come back and answer any questions.

4. Communications

- a. Every convoy has constant radio communications with the Office of Secure Transportation (OST) Transportation and Emergency Control Center (TECC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. OST has two additional commands: Amarillo,

Texas and Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

- b. OST Operations knows the status of every convoy and is advised by radio immediately of every emergency.
 - c. OST has the phone number for every state police communications center in every state and calls immediately for assistance in any emergency.
 - d. Phone number for OST (24 hour number) 1-800-424-0167.
5. Areas of Law Enforcement Assistance to a Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Shipment Emergency.
- a. Check with the DPS Dispatcher and determine the nature of the emergency. If the Dispatcher is not aware of the situation, ask them to call OST at 1-800-424-0167.
 - b. Establish roadblocks around the site of the emergency to keep innocent bystanders away.
 - c. Join the on-scene Courier-In-Charge and establish a joint command post. Direct the deployment of other law enforcement officers as they arrive on the scene.
 - d. Provide additional firepower as available when requested by the Courier-In-Charge.
 - e. Initiate calls for medical assistance as needed.
 - f. Provide assistance in securing the area when the situation has stabilized.
 - g. If a shipment is lost to attackers, provide maximum support for a pursuit and recovery operation.
 - h. Provide aid in situations where a person is unlawfully interfering with a DOE convoy. This interference may be a violation of a federal, state, or local statute.