

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Policy Manual

SUBJECT SPEED DETECTION DEVICES	POLICY NUMBER 6.08
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	REVISED DATE 9/12/2023
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6.08.1 Purpose

This policy establishes the authorization and use of speed detection devices for sworn members of the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS).

6.08.2 Policy

In its efforts to save lives by reducing highway speeds and crashes, DPS utilizes speed detection devices to enforce speed limits in this state. A DPS sworn member may be issued a speed detection device for use pursuant to the terms and conditions of this policy.

6.08.3 Procedures

- A. The specifications for approved speed detection devices are listed in DPS Rule #570-7, in furtherance of the requirements of O.C.G.A. §40-14-17. DPS sworn members are authorized to use only such approved devices issued by DPS.
- B. DPS may issue a speed detection device to a sworn member., Unless otherwise designated at the time of issue, such device shall be considered personal equipment, requiring personal responsibility and maintenance. Each change of possession of the devices shall be tracked on an Equipment Status Change Form (DPS-410).
- C. Radio Detection and Ranging (RADAR)
 1. Prior to operating RADAR for the purpose of enforcement action, DPS sworn members shall acquire and maintain certification in the manner required by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.)
 2. RADAR Unit's Requiring Use of Tuning Forks
 - a. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, the sworn member shall check the accuracy of the radar device by use of the tuning forks assigned to that device and performing an internal circuitry check. The device shall also be tested by comparing the displayed Patrol Speed against the vehicle speedometer. The results of the test shall be recorded on a log prescribed by the department. If the device fails any part of the test, it shall be taken out of service until it has been repaired.
 - b. Before being placed in service, and annually thereafter, each radar device shall be certified for compliance by technicians possessing a general class

radiotelephone license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. The tuning forks associated with each device shall be checked and certified at the same time as the annual certification and always kept with the radar device.

3. RADAR Unit's Not Requiring Use of Tuning Forks
 - a. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, the sworn member shall check the accuracy of the radar device in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. The results of the test shall be recorded on a log prescribed by the department. If the device fails any part of the test, it shall be taken out of service until it has been repaired.
 - b. Before being placed in service, and annually thereafter, each radar device shall be certified for compliance by technicians possessing a license in general class radiotelephone issued by the Federal Communications Commission.
4. All maintenance and calibration records are to be maintained at the Sworn Work Unit level in accordance with the Department's Records Retention Schedule.

D. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)

1. Prior to operating LIDAR for the purpose of enforcement action, DPS sworn members shall acquire and maintain certification in the manner required by P.O.S.T.
2. Each LIDAR device shall be certified annually for compliance by a certified technician who meets the requirements set forth by DPS.
3. A LIDAR device shall be tested at the beginning and end of each tour of duty. Testing shall be conducted according to manufacturer's recommendations. The results of the test shall be recorded on a log prescribed by the department. If the device fails any part of the test, it shall be taken out of service until it has been repaired.
4. All maintenance and calibration records are to be maintained at the Sworn Work Unit level in accordance with the Department's Records Retention Schedule.
5. Sworn members utilizing LIDAR devices that possess photographic and/or video capability and storage shall adhere to the requirements of Policy #12.01 - Evidence and Property and Policy #12.03 - Mobile Video/Audio Recording. Accordingly, all such photographs, CDs, DVDs, memory storage cards, or other memory storage devices, related to a crime shall be labeled and processed as evidence.

E. Repairs

1. Speed detection devices shall be repaired by an authorized vendor under the provisions of Georgia Technology Authority Statewide Contract.
2. Speed detection devices under warranty should be returned to the manufacturer for repairs.
3. Devices not under warranty should be repaired, at the Sworn Work Unit level, by a technician who meets the requirements set forth by DPS.

4. In the event of a device failure, the sworn member to whom the device is issued, or a sworn member designated by the Sworn Work Unit Commander shall present the device to an approved repair facility during the facility's regular business hours. The device shall be repaired or replaced, depending upon the estimated cost of repair, and utilizing established purchasing policy as developed by the DPS Accounting Division.

F. Inventory

1. Court requirements necessitate maintenance of a current inventory of all speed detection devices. The DPS Property Manager within Fleet Services is responsible for such inventory.
2. Upon receipt of a speed detection device, Sworn Work Unit Commanders shall complete a DPS-410 and forward it to the DPS Property Manager within Fleet Services with the following information:
 - a. Make;
 - b. Model;
 - c. Serial Number; and
 - d. DPS property decal.

G. Use of detection devices

1. Upon completion of Trooper School, newly promoted Troopers shall not operate or be issued a speed detection device for a three-month period. This allows new Troopers to become familiar with their assigned territories and be observant of other violations.
2. Prior sworn members who attend and complete the advanced only portion of Trooper School, may be assigned a speed detection device.
3. Sworn members shall operate only DPS devices and shall not borrow or operate a unit owned by another law enforcement agency.
4. All devices shall remain at DPS facilities prior to issuance to DPS sworn members and shall not be loaned to other law enforcement agencies.
5. Sworn members shall operate speed detection devices only in the performance of their official duties.
6. Sworn members shall ensure the following information is entered on all speeding citations involving the operation of a speed detection device.
 - a. Serial number of the device.
 - b. The time calibration that the was checked.
 - c. The badge number of any sworn member operating the device if other than the arresting officer.