
Crookston Police Department

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Vehicle Operation Without Lights	POLICY # 117
AUTHORIZED BY: Darin Selzler, Chief of Police	ISSUE DATE September 01, 2001
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REFERENCE(S): MN Statute 84.84 MN Statute 84.928 MN Statute 86B.511 MN Statute 169.48 MN Statute 169.541 MN Statute 169.65 Administrative Rules 6110.1200	MODIFICATION DATE September 19, 2022

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the use of department vehicle without regularly required lights.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Crookston Police Department to provide a uniform guideline for all personnel to use when operating a department vehicle without headlights, taillights, or marine navigational lighting while functioning as a peace officer.

III. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply:

Vehicle: means every self-propelled vehicle and every watercraft that is owned, leased, or otherwise the property of this agency and used in the performance of [an officer's] law enforcement duties.

Illumination Devices: means the headlights, taillights, and watercraft lights vehicles are required to be equipped with and use according to statute.

IV.. PROCEDURE

A peace officer shall operate a vehicle with its illumination devices on as described and guided by statute when:

- On an interstate highway
- Traveling at speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road, and traffic conditions
- Traveling faster than the posted speed limit

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- The peace officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a motor vehicle in violation of [MN Statute 609.487](#)- Fleeing Peace Officer; Motor Vehicle; Other.
- Part-time or Reserve officers may not operate without lights.

When the circumstances described above do not apply, a peace officer may apply the lighting exemption statute ([MN Statute 169.541](#)) and stop or interrupt the use of their vehicle illumination devices if 1) the peace officer does so in the performance of their duties, 2) the conduct is reasonable, and 3) the peace officer reasonably believes that turning off a vehicle's illumination devices is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation or suspected criminal violation. The types of violations being investigated may be state laws, rules, orders or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.