

East Grand Forks Police Department

Lighting Exemption of Law Enforcement Vehicles

Directive: 41.2.1.2

Reference: RSFLEA 41.2.1, MN STAT 84.87, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65 and 86B.511

Authorized By: _____
Michael S. Hedlund – Chief of Police

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Distribution: All Personnel (Electronic Version), Dispatch Center, Office of the Chief of Police (Original)

I. POLICY

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

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply:

- A. Vehicle:** means a motor vehicle or watercraft owned, leased or otherwise the property of the State of Minnesota or a political subdivision.
- B. Lights:** refers to headlights, taillights and marine navigational lighting as referenced in MN STAT 84.87, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65 and 86B.511.

III. PROCEDURE

The following procedures only apply if the use of headlights, taillights or marine navigational lights would normally be required due to the time of day and/or the weather conditions.

A peace officer may operate a law enforcement vehicle without headlights, taillights or marine navigational lights if the officer's conduct is reasonable and if the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation or suspected criminal violation of state laws, rules, or orders or local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

Officers may **not** operate a vehicle without lights under the following circumstances:

- on an interstate highway.
- at speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road and traffic conditions.

- faster than the posted speed limit.
- in situations where the peace officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a motor vehicle in violation of MN STAT 609.487.

The following East Grand Forks Police Department Policy is rescinded upon the effective date of this Directive: “Operation of Police Vehicle Without Lights” Issued 11/15/2000 on pages 141-142 of the ole East Grand Forks Police Department Policy Manual.