

10.04
CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of Chief of Police
General Order

Date Issued: July 25, 1997 **Revision Date:** March 31, 2001
Subject: Safety Belts - Mandatory Use **Reference:** None
To: All Employees

I. PURPOSE:

To minimize the possibility of death or injury to drivers and passengers in departmental vehicles that may be involved in accidents.

II. POLICY:

There is available evidence indicating that the use of safety belts and other restraining devices has a significant effect in reducing the number of deaths and the severity of injuries resulting from traffic crashes, and assists officers in maintaining proper control of their vehicles in pursuit and/or emergency high speed operations.

Therefore, all persons shall use the safety belt restraining system while operating or riding as a passenger in a departmental vehicle when the vehicle is in motion. This policy shall not apply to persons occupying a seating position that is not equipped with a safety belt assembly, or any officer possessing a written indication from a physician or the Chief of Police that for medical or physical reasons the officer is unable to use the safety belt system.

Unless a replacement vehicle is unavailable, no person shall operate a departmental vehicle in which any front seat safety belt is inoperable.

There are circumstances in which use of safety belt restraining systems may hamper efficient conduct of police functions. Supervisors may grant exemptions to this policy for specific situations in which they deem efficiency of operation outweighs the safety benefit.

Authorized By:

Walter K. Vanatta
Chief of Police