

222. USE OF VEHICLE SAFETY BELTS

Motor, vehicles purchased by the city of Breckenridge for use by police department personnel are equipped with safety belts in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Standards.

All department personnel while driving Police vehicle in town may elect not to use their seat belts as per 169.686 Subd. 2 (4) while driving in town. Officers riding may also elect not to use their seat belts. When Officer (s) drive out of town and/or, over, 25 mph, shall then use their seat belts.

The purpose of the policy is to encourage department personnel and/or, passengers use available safety belt equipment in motor vehicles to reduce the possibility of death or serious injury in case of an accident.

Procedure:

If Department personnel are wearing seat belts while patrolling in the City they should follow the below guidelines.

1. When arriving at an emergency cal 1 , the operator may remove the restraint device just prior to stopping for, quick exit and to prevent becoming entangled in the restraint device.
2. Department personnel may remove the safety restraint device just prior to coming to a stop on a vehicle/traffic stop. Caution should be exercised to insure the violator, is in fact going to stop. This would prevent becoming involved in a pursuit without -the use of safety restraint devices.
3. Prisoners, upon request, may be restrained in -the rear of vehicles using -the lap belts if provided. EXCEPTION if the prisoner is so combative as to create a potential for, injury to the, officer, or, prisoner and other restraints are used that make safety belt equipment use impractical, the belt need not be used until the prisoner can be restrained safely.
4. Department personnel will adjust the safety restraint devices so that -they are comfortable yet provide Maximum protection in the event of an accident. Operators will inspect the serviceability of the harness at the start of each shift. Any safety belt malfunction or problem must be reported to the supervisor.