



Approved:

Chief Marcia Harnden

Subject:

721. Occupant Safety Restraints

Effective:

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CALEA Standards: 41.3.3, 70.4.2

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721.1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for seat belt and child safety seat use to assure maximum operator and passenger safety, thus minimizing the possibility of death or injury as the result of a motor vehicle crash.

This policy will apply to all members operating or riding in Department vehicles.

721.2: POLICY

It is the policy of the Albany Police Department that members shall use seatbelts in accordance with this policy and the law.

721.2: WEARING OF SAFETY RESTRAINTS

- a. All members shall wear properly adjusted safety restraints when operating or riding in a seat equipped with restraints, in any vehicle owned, leased or rented by this department, while on- or off-duty, or in any privately-owned vehicle while on-duty.
 - 1) The member driving such a vehicle shall ensure that all other occupants, including non-members, are also properly restrained.
- b. Exceptions to the requirement to wear safety restraints may be made only in exceptional situations where, due to unusual circumstances, wearing a seat belt would endanger the member or the public.
 - 1) Members must be prepared to justify any deviation from this requirement.

721.2.1: TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

A properly installed, approved child restraint system should be used for all children of an age, height or weight for which such restraints are required by law ([ORS 811.210](#)).

- a. Children under the age of 13 should be transported in the rear seat.
- b. In the event that the appropriate restraints are unavailable, officers should arrange for alternate transportation.

721.3: TRANSPORTING PRISONERS

Whenever possible, prisoners should be secured in the prisoner restraint system in the rear seat of the patrol vehicle or, when a prisoner restraint system is not available, by seat belts.

- a. The prisoner should be in a seating position for which seat belts have been provided by the vehicle manufacturer.
- b. In unusual circumstances where it is unsafe or impractical to do so, prisoners may be transported without the use of seat belts ([ORS 811.215 \(6\)](#)).
- c. The prisoner restraint system is not intended to be a substitute for handcuffs or other appendage restraints.

721.4: INOPERABLE SEATBELTS

- a. No person shall operate a department vehicle in which the seat belt in the driver's position is inoperable.
- b. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the seat belt is inoperable.
- c. No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts, except for vehicle maintenance and repair staff, which shall do so only with the express authorization of the Chief of Police.
- d. Employees who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor.
 - 1) Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.