



GENERAL ORDER

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Chapter: Operations

Section: 408.10

Subject: Traffic

Topic: Use of Radar or Laser Equipment

Accreditation: OPR.07.03

Revised:

Reaffirmed:

Enacted: 07/30/2015

Last Review: 07/24/2015

Review: 07/30/2016

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to set forth guidelines for the use of RADAR or Laser equipment by sworn members of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office to use RADAR or Laser equipment to:

1. Reduce motor vehicle accidents on roadways at specific locations where the cause of crashes may be attributed to excessive speed
2. Reduce speeding on roadways identified by citizen complaints
3. Reduce speeding on roadways identified through common knowledge of violations that may cause a hazard
4. Conduct evaluations of locations where the posted speed limits may be inappropriate

III. LEGAL AUTHORITY

46.2-882: Determining speed with various devices; certificate as to accuracy of device; arrest without warrant.

The speed of any motor vehicle may be determined by the use of (i) a laser speed determination device, (ii) radar, (iii) a microcomputer device that is physically connected to an odometer cable and both measures and records distance traveled and elapsed time to determine the average speed of a motor vehicle. The results of such determination shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the speed of such motor vehicle in any court or legal proceeding where the speed of the motor vehicle is at issue.

No calibration or testing of such device shall be valid for longer than six months.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Working RADAR or Laser at the foot of a grade shall not be a standard practice. If citizens initiate complaints or if accidents have occurred that can be attributed to excessive speed, a supervisor, prior to the operation of radar or laser equipment at the location, shall conduct an on-site inspection.
- B. Supervisors shall ensure that all deputies who use radar or laser equipment have been properly trained in their use and are certified for the operation. All pre-testing, post-testing, and records required by law and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office must be completed and maintained.
- C. In addition to the measured speed, the deputy should note in the description area of the Virginia Uniform Summons the distance that the reading was obtained. For example: speeding 42/25 (Laser – 386 feet).
- D. Supervisors shall ensure that the use of radar or laser is accomplished without any adverse effect as to available manpower for minimum patrol needs and services rendered to the community.