



Chapter: Operating Department Vehicles
Subject: 10-04 – Slick Top, Semi-Marked, Special Service, and Unmarked Vehicles
Effective: May 2, 2022
Supersedes: Official Order 10-04, dated April 19, 2022
Distribution: Department Members

PURPOSE: This Order establishes department policy related to the use of slick top, semi-marked, and unmarked vehicles.

10-04-1 SLICK TOP, SEMI-MARKED, SPECIAL SERVICE, AND UNMARKED VEHICLE USE

A. Definitions

- (1) **Fully-Marked Patrol Vehicle:** A patrol vehicle painted and marked as a standard patrol vehicle and equipped with the traditional overhead lighting and lighting on the front and rear of the patrol vehicle.
- (2) **Slick Top Patrol Vehicle:** A patrol vehicle painted and marked as a standard patrol vehicle but equipped with grille-mounted lights and other covert warning devices in place of the traditional overhead light.
- (3) **Semi-Marked Patrol Vehicle:** A patrol vehicle painted a color other than the traditional MSP blue, with limited markings, and with covert lighting and other warning devices like a slick-top patrol vehicle. It is designed to more easily blend in with traffic when not on a traffic stop.
- (4) **Unmarked Vehicle:** Any vehicle not designed or intended for patrol use, that has no markings whatsoever or permanently mounted warning devices (e.g., staff vehicles, undercover "I" vehicles).
- (5) **Special Service Vehicle:** A special service vehicle is a non-pursuit rated car or truck that is equipped with covert emergency equipment and minimal markings. These vehicles are equipped with emergency equipment to provide identification at scenes and are not to be used for routine traffic enforcement. Examples of special service vehicles include executive protection unit vehicles, special operations vehicles, administrative or I Cars equipped with limited emergency lighting, and traffic crash reconstructionist vehicles.

B. Slick top and semi-marked patrol vehicles offer certain enforcement advantages in both traffic and criminal work. The use of these vehicles is intended to balance visibility needs against maximum enforcement capability.

C. Slick top and semi-marked patrol vehicles may be used during the hours of daylight. Officers may choose to use these vehicles during the hours of darkness, with authorization of the worksite commander.

- D. Because they are neither designed nor equipped for high-speed law enforcement applications, unmarked vehicles and special service vehicles shall not be used in pursuits.
- E. The Precision Driving Unit is charged with making annual recommendations to the department's Leadership Team which include:
 - (1) The type of vehicles utilized by the department for patrol.
 - (2) The type of emergency equipment authorized for patrol vehicles and special service vehicles.

DIRECTOR

Annual Review Responsibility: Training Division

Accreditation Standards: CALEA 61.1.6 C