



Sheridan Police Department
Policies and Procedures
19.6
Chapter 19 – Vehicle Operation
Section 6 – Mobile Video Recording

Date: January 1, 2013
Revised: 03/09/2015, 02/09/2022

Signature:

The use of Mobile Video Recording Systems (MVRS) provides documentary evidence for prosecution of violations of the law, helps defend against civil litigation and allegations of officer misconduct, and provides a means to assess the quality of officer contact with citizens.

19.6.1 Program Objectives

The Sheridan Police Department uses in-car and body worn video and audio recording systems in order to accomplish several objectives, including:

- A. Accurate documentation of events, actions, conditions, and statements made during the course of an incident;
- B. To enhance the officer's ability to document and review statements and actions for both internal reporting requirements and for courtroom preparation and presentation;
- C. For officer evaluation including the ability to review:
 - 1. Probable cause for arrest;
 - 2. Arrest procedures; and
 - 3. Officer and suspect interaction.
- D. For officer training including as an impartial measurement for self-critique and field evaluation during new officer training; and
- E. To protect from false claims of impropriety.

19.6.2 Operating Procedures

- A. Marked patrol vehicles of the Sheridan Police Department shall be equipped with a Mobile Video Recording System (MVRS) with video and audio recording and playback capability.
- B. MVRS equipment installed in vehicles is the responsibility of the officer assigned to that vehicle and will be maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations. Officers shall be responsible for reading the MVRS operation manual and the proper application of its contents.
- C. MVRS equipment will automatically activate when the vehicle's emergency warning equipment is in operation. In other cases, officers may manually activate the recording mode. Officers shall record all traffic stops, arrests, prisoner transports, field sobriety tests, pursuits and driving when emergency equipment is activated. Officers may record other events including, but not limited to, unusual conduct, the condition of crime and accident scenes, and traffic violations. The officer shall not stop the recording until the incident has ended. At the discretion of the officer, the equipment may be manually deactivated during non-enforcement activities such as when protecting an accident scene from other vehicular traffic. A back-up officer may deactivate the camera if the primary officer is recording the incident.

- D. Prior to and throughout each shift, officers shall determine whether their MVRS equipment is working properly. Any problems shall be brought to the attention of the shift supervisor and the officer shall immediately submit a maintenance request.
- E. Officers should ensure that the video and body cameras are properly positioned and adjusted to provide quality documentation. Officers should attempt to keep the video camera positioned in such a manner as to capture the event in its entirety.
- F. With the exception of the police radios, officers shall ensure that the volume from other electronic devices within the police vehicle does not interfere with recordings.
- G. The system may be used to make audio recordings of conversations when interviewing suspects or witnesses within or away from the police unit.
- H. Patrol officers will wear the body worn camera while on duty..
- I. Officers will ensure the body worn camera remains charged.
- J. Officers shall not attempt to tamper with or in any manner alter recordings or equipment.

19.6.3 Supervisory Responsibilities

- A. Supervisors will ensure that officers follow established procedures for the use and maintenance of MVR equipment and recordings.
- B. Supervisors will ensure that damaged or non-functional MVR equipment is reported for repairs.