

# Traffic Function and Responsibility

## 500.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The goal of traffic law enforcement is to reduce traffic accidents and improve the safety and quality of life for the community through traffic law compliance. This may be achieved through the application of such techniques as geographic/temporal assignment of personnel and equipment and the establishment of preventive patrols to deal with specific categories of unlawful driving behavior. Traffic enforcement techniques are based on accident data, enforcement activity records, traffic volume, traffic conditions and other data. This department provides enforcement efforts, not only in proportion to the frequency of their occurrence in accident situations but also in terms of traffic-related needs.

## 500.2 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DEPLOYMENT

Several factors are considered in the development of deployment schedules for officers of the Fargo Police Department. Information provided by the department's Crime Analyst, analytics program, or the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) are valuable resource for traffic accidents, and therefore officer deployment. Some of the factors for analysis include:

- Location
- Time
- Day
- Violation factors

All officers assigned to patrol or traffic enforcement functions will emphasize enforcement of traffic laws and address accident-causing violations during those periods and at those locations where the incidence of accidents is increased. As a matter of routine, all officers will take directed enforcement action on request, and random enforcement action when appropriate, against violators. Officers, supervisors, and command officers should consider using high and low visibility enforcement tactics when addressing traffic and crash issues.

Other factors to be considered for deployment are citizen requests, construction zones, school zones, or special events.

## 500.3 ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement actions should correspond with applicable laws and take into account the degree and severity of the violation committed. This department does not establish ticket quotas and the number of arrests or citations issued by any officer shall not be used as the sole criterion for evaluating officer overall performance. The visibility and quality of an officer's work effort will correspond with the philosophy of this policy. Several methods are effective in the reduction of accidents.

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#### **500.4 HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS**

The Department has provided American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Class II high-visibility vests to reduce the danger to employees who may be exposed to hazards presented by passing traffic, construction vehicles and disaster recovery equipment (23 CFR 655.601).

Although intended primarily for use while performing traffic-related assignments, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time increased visibility would improve the safety or efficiency of the employee.

##### **500.4.1 REQUIRED USE**

Except when working in a potentially adversarial or confrontational role, such as during vehicle stops, high-visibility vests should be worn at any time it is anticipated that an employee will be exposed to the hazards of approaching traffic or construction and recovery equipment. Examples of when high-visibility vests should be worn include traffic control duties, accident investigations, lane closures and while at disaster scenes, or anytime high visibility is desirable. When emergency conditions preclude the immediate donning of the vest, officers should retrieve and wear the vest as soon as conditions reasonably permit. Use of the vests shall also be mandatory when directed by a supervisor.

Vests maintained in the investigation units may be used any time a plainclothes officer might benefit from being readily identified as an officer.

##### **500.4.2 CARE AND STORAGE OF HIGH-VISIBILITY VESTS**

High-visibility vests shall be maintained in the cargo area of each patrol and investigation unit, in the side box of each police motorcycle and in the saddlebag or gear bag of each bicycle. Each vest should be stored inside the re-sealable plastic bag that is provided to protect and maintain the vest in a serviceable condition. Before going into service, each employee shall ensure a serviceable high-visibility vest is properly stored in the vehicle.

Additional high-visibility vests will be maintained in the equipment room for replacement of damaged or unserviceable vests. The department's quartermaster should be promptly notified whenever the supply of vests in the equipment room needs replenishing.