

CHAPTER 14 – UTILITY VEHICLES

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CHAPTER 14 – UTILITY VEHICLES

***Section 14.00 – Utility Vehicles**

The Raymore Police Department recognizes the tremendous benefit of utilizing off road/utility vehicles to enhance the service we provide to our community. As such, it is critical that officers operate these in the safest manner possible.

Section 14.01 – Operator Requirements and Standards

- A. Operators must possess a valid operator's license.
- B. Only a licensed officer of the Raymore Police Department shall operate a utility vehicle. Other properly licensed city employees may be granted use as authorized by the Chief of Police or a designee.
- C. Any department employee operating a utility vehicle must first review all applicable policies and attend safety training.
- D. Any department employee operating a utility vehicle must first get permission to do so from their supervisor or commander.

Section 14.02 – Vehicle Operating Standards

- A. Utility vehicles are intended to increase the department's ability to patrol parks and trails, to provide transportation for departmental personnel and traffic control for special events, and to provide the department with an off-road capability for transportation to and from remote crime scenes and the search for missing persons and suspects.
- B. Utility vehicles owned by the Raymore Police Department may only be used for official department business. The use of department-owned utility vehicles for personal business is absolutely prohibited. Utility vehicles are not to be operated at speeds greater than 15 MPH or as safety concerns demand on trails and park grounds. Operators of utility vehicles are restricted to the posted speed limit on city streets.
- C. The use of a utility vehicle in a vehicle pursuit is strictly prohibited.
- D. Operators should always consider the terrain, weather conditions, pedestrian and vehicular traffic, which may affect the ability to operate the vehicle safely.
- E. Pedestrians and bicyclists will be given the right-of-way at all times. In the event that a pedestrian or bicyclist is to be passed, passing will be done on the left and a verbal warning will be utilized.

F. Non-city employee passengers are prohibited unless authorized by a supervisor or commander.

Section 14.03 - Safety

A. Operators are responsible for the security of the utility vehicle while in their care. Any time a utility vehicle is left unattended, the ignition key will be removed from the ignition and kept in the possession of the operator.

B. Utility vehicle operators are not permitted to drive while wearing devices that impede hearing, such as stereo headsets, earplugs, etc.

C. All passengers must be in seats designed for such use. No passengers are to be transported on the bed, back, or sides of the vehicle.

D. Seat belts must be used when the vehicle is in motion.

E. Every part of the body – feet, legs, and arms shall be kept inside the vehicle while it is in motion.

F. Operators and passengers may not exceed the recommended load capacity of the vehicle.

G. Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited while operating a utility vehicle.

H. Operators will limit the utility vehicle's use on city streets as much as possible. Exceptions include parades and other special events, where the vehicle's emergency equipment shall be activated.

I. Any time a utility vehicle is traveling on a city street, the operator will activate the vehicle's yellow flashing lights.

Section 14.04 – Maintenance Responsibilities

A. Utility Vehicle Inspection – Operators will conduct an inspection of the vehicle before use, to include the following:

1. Tire inflation.
2. General condition of the body and roll cage.
3. Fluid levels.
4. Fluid leaks.
5. Vehicle steering.
6. Brake functioning.
7. Seat belt condition.
8. Vehicle lighting, to include overhead lights and siren.
9. Slow moving vehicle placard.

B. Each utility vehicle operator is responsible for the timely notification of safety and maintenance concerns.

C. If a utility vehicle cannot be operated safely without repairs being made, the vehicle will be taken out of service until repairs are completed.

D. Any misuse or abuse of a utility vehicle may result in disciplinary action and revocation of privileges.

Section 14.05 – Accident Reporting

Accidents involving a utility vehicle will be reported immediately to the operator's supervisor, regardless of whether property damage or personal injury occurred. Supervisors then have the responsibility of following the same procedure as with members involved in vehicular accidents.