



**CHEVY CHASE  
VILLAGE  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief: John M. Fitzgerald

**GENERAL ORDER: 5-20 SPEED MEASURING DEVICES**

DATE: 8/16/2012 Pages: 2 ◇ New ◇ Amended ◆ Revised 5-20

CALEA: 61.1.5-c, 61.1.8, 61.1.9-a-b-c-d-e

**I. POLICY**

The policy of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department is to use speed measuring devices in high or potentially high collision locations when speed is a possible factor contributing to the collisions as well as those areas identified by observation or citizen complaints as having a speeding problem. Speed measuring devices will also be used in conjunction with State Highway grants, e.g. "Smooth Operator." The Chevy Chase Village Safe Speed Program will incorporate the use of photo speed cameras on roadways with a history of speeding violations and/or collisions. (CALEA 61.1.5-c)

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. The effective use of speed measuring devices and their acceptance by the public is dependent upon the operator's understanding of the specific limitations of the speed measuring device itself. Adequate training and certification to show operator efficiency is mandated. The purpose of this General Order is to provide guidance in the proper use of speed measuring devices in traffic enforcement. (CALEA 61.1.9-e)
- B. Procedures for the Chevy Chase Village Police Department have been established to ensure that:
  - 1. Officers are certified to use speed measuring devices;
  - 2. Adequate maintenance, calibration, and operational record systems (suitable for introduction as evidence in court) are developed and maintained; and,
  - 3. Officers will receive additional training as operators of the automated photo speed enforcement program (SafeSpeed).

**III. EQUIPMENT**

- A. Equipment specifications for laser speed measuring devices shall meet or exceed National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards. (CALEA 61.1.9-a)

- B. Laser speed measuring devices per the manufacturer do not need calibration. Units used in our SafeSpeed Program will be certified in accordance with the contract and business rules with the selected vendor. (CALEA 61.1.9-d).
- C. The Sergeant will coordinate dates for speed measuring device repair/calibration. (CALEA 61.1.9-d)
  - 1. Upon coordination of repair dates, the device in need of repair will be packaged and delivered to an appropriate commercial carrier for shipment. Upon return of the repaired speed measuring device, the Sergeant will place the device back in service.
  - 2. Calibration will be completed by the vendor whenever a device has been sent for repair. A certificate of calibration will be included when the unit is shipped back.
- D. All documentation including repair work orders, equipment calibration certificates and a list of device specifications and serial numbers will be retained in the files.
- E. The speed measuring devices shall be kept dry at all times and when not in use, they shall be securely stored in their cushioned carrying case. (CALEA 61.1.9-c)

**IV. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

- A. The certification course for speed measuring device operators shall consist of classroom instruction and practical field application of speed measuring equipment.
- B. Each officer successfully completing the course will be authorized and certified by the Chevy Chase Village Police Department to operate speed measuring devices. (CALEA 61.1.9-e)

**V. SPEED MEASURING DEVICE USAGE**

The precise method for using a speed measuring device and the enforcement of laws applying to speed will vary

according to the type of speed measuring device used. Generally, the following procedures are applicable:

- A. The speed measuring device must be properly installed and connected to the appropriate power supply.
- B. The effective range of the particular speed measuring device must be thoroughly understood by the operator to ensure that visual observations can support the speed readings.
- C. The operator must choose an appropriate location that is conducive to the effective and safe operation of the speed measuring device.
- D. The speed measuring device will be properly tested to ensure accuracy in calibrating speed. Most manufacturers recommend specific methods of checking calibration. These should be followed without exception.
- E. At a minimum, speed measuring devices should be tested for accuracy at the beginning of the operator's tour of duty. (CALEA 61.1.9-b)
- F. Photo Speed Camera operators will set up daily deployment logs and report any equipment issues to the tech section of the selected vendor.

## VI. SERGEANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Retain all documentation including repair work orders and equipment calibration certificates. (CALEA 61.1.9-d)
- B. Ensure that a maintenance log is kept for the speed measuring units.

## VII. OPERATOR PROCEDURES

- A. Certified operators will use only speed measuring equipment on which they have received training and certification. (CALEA 61.1.9-e)
- B. Officers must wear the full police uniform at all times when conducting a speed enforcement detail utilizing speed measurement devices.
- C. Laser operators will sign out the unit on a log established by the Sergeant who will maintain the records for a period of three (3) years. Operators will be held responsible for the loss or damage of the unit.
- D. The speed measuring device operator will be responsible for the care and upkeep of speed measuring devices used. This includes taking the device out of service if it does not meet calibration checks or is otherwise inoperable. The operator shall place the

device out of service and write a memorandum to the Sergeant outlining the problems associated with the device.

- E. Officers stopping cars on foot will only do so during daylight hours and will wear their reflective, high-visibility traffic vest over their full uniform at all times. A distance not greater than 300 feet will separate the speed measuring device operator and the stopping officers, allowing the operator to maintain constant visual contact.
- F. Police vehicles may be used at any time to stop violators with safety for the public, working personnel and equipment being primary considerations.
- G. Whenever the hand-held speed measuring device is connected to a power source, it should be held in the hands of the operator or secured in a safe location where the device cannot be damaged from abrupt movement. When the device is not connected to a power source it will be properly stored.
- H. A laser operator shall, when requested by a violator, provide available information on the laser equipment, unless the request interferes with on-going enforcement activities or officer/violator safety, at which time the person inquiring will be referred to the Sergeant. (CALEA 61.1.8)
- I. The following elements must be established by the officer for court presentation when speed measuring device speed charges are placed.
  - 1. The time, place, and location of the vehicle that was checked, the identity of the operator, the speed of the vehicle, and the visual and speed measuring speed checks;
  - 2. An overview of officer qualifications and training in the use of speed measuring devices;
  - 3. That the speed measuring device was operated properly;
  - 4. That the device was tested for accuracy before use and after use by an approved method;
  - 5. The identity of the vehicle coordinated with visual and audible tracking history to establish approximate speed;
  - 6. The speed limit in the zone in which the officer was operating and where the speed limit signs were posted.
  - 7. Photo Speed Enforcement information is placed in a 3-ring binder which officers will take to court.