

DEEPHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY: LIGHTING EXEMPTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES

POLICY#: P-5

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/04/11

REVIEW DATE: 02/01/21

APPROVED BY: CHIEF

Title: Lighting Exemption of Law Enforcement Vehicles
MN Statutes, Section 169.541

Distribution: Sworn Personnel

Policy:

It is the policy of the Deephaven Police Department to provide a uniform guideline for all department personnel to use when operating a department vehicle without headlights and/or taillights while functioning as a peace officer.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. Vehicle – A motor vehicle owned, leased or otherwise the property of the City of Deephaven or a political subdivision.
2. Lights – Refers to headlights and taillights. Referenced in MN Statutes, Sections 169.48 to 169.65, watercraft, snowmobiles and all terrain vehicles.

Prohibited Activities:

A peace officer may **not** operate a vehicle without lights from sunset to sunrise:

- On an interstate highway.
- At speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road and traffic conditions.
- Faster than the posted speed limit.
- In situations where the peace officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a motor vehicle in violation of MN Statutes, Section 609.487.
- Contrary to the elements of MN Statutes, Section 169.541.

Operating without lights is permitted under MN Statutes, Section 169.541. If the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation or suspects criminal violation of state laws, rules or orders or local laws, ordinances or regulations.