
Purpose

This sets forth guidelines for law enforcement vehicle lighting exemptions allowed under MN Statute § 169.541

I. POLICY

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

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Vehicle:** means a motor vehicle or watercraft owned, leased or otherwise the property of the State of Minnesota or a political subdivision.
- B. Lights:** refers to headlights, taillights and marine navigational lighting as referenced in MN STAT 84.87, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65 and 86B.511.

III. PROCEDURE

A PEACE OFFICER MAY NOT OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS:

- A. On Inter-State Highways
- B. At speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road, and traffic conditions.
- C. At speeds greater than the posted speed limit.
- D. In situations where the Peace Officer is an active participant in pursuing a motor vehicle being operated in violation of Minnesota Statute 609.487.

A PEACE OFFICER MAY OPERATE WITHOUT LIGHTS:

- A. in the performance of the officer's law enforcement duties, if the officer's conduct is reasonable and consistent with the standards adopted under Minnesota Statute-169.541, and if the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation, or suspected criminal violation of State Laws, rules or orders or local laws ordinances, or regulations.
- B. The authority to operate a police vehicle without lights does not relieve the responsibility of the Officer from doing so in a safe and cautious manner.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

- A. Minnesota POST Board – Model
- B. Minnesota Statutes § 169.541
- C. REVISION DATE(S):