


PINE BLUFF POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

	SUBJECT:	POLICY NUMBER 401
	ENFORCEMENT - SPEED	ISSUE DATE 02/19/2008
	CHAPTER: TRAFFIC	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/19/2008
	ISSUED By: Chief of Police John E. Howell	TOTAL PAGES 2

I. POLICY

Excessive speed is the second greatest cause of death and injury on the American highways. Uniform methods of enforcement of speed laws within this jurisdiction should be applied to all officers. Procedures for the enforcement of law applying to speed will vary in accordance with the type of equipment used.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. The officer should follow the vehicle being paced at a constant interval for a distance adequate, normally two or more city blocks, to obtain a reading on the speedometer indicating a speed exceeding that posted.
- B. Radar: Radar is not to be utilized for “filler” or “slack” officer time, but should be planned and utilized where vehicle speed is excessive or of hazard to other motorists or pedestrians. The following guidelines are established for use of the radar, which will always be operated in compliance with manufacturer’s instructions. All departmental radar units meet current NHTSA standards. Generally, the following procedures are applicable to operation of radar units:
 - 1. The radar unit must be properly installed in the vehicle and connected to the appropriate power supply.
 - 2. The effective range of the particular radar unit must be thoroughly understood by the operator so visual observations can support the speed meter reading.
 - 3. The operator must choose an appropriate location relative to traffic accident experience in which speed has been identified as a factor. The location must also be conducive to the effective and safe operation of radar.

4. The radar unit must be properly calibrated to insure accuracy in checking speed. The operator must follow the manufacturer's recommended specific methods of checking calibration without exception. Any problems with the operation for radar units or apparent malfunction should be promptly reported.
5. The following elements must be established in court, by the officer, when radar speed charges are placed:
 - a. 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 radar speed check.
 - b. Officer qualifications and training in use of radar.
 - c. The radar unit was operated properly.
 - d. The unit was tested for accuracy prior to use and after use by an approved method.
 - e. Identify the vehicle and should have made a visual observation of its apparent speed.
 - f. Speed limit in the zone in which officer was operating and where such signs were posted.
6. Radar training is given to officers by the Training Division in conjunction with ALETA. Officers, in court testimony, should be able to cite/display training received or certificates issued.
7. The Officer is responsible to ensure the radar units receive proper upkeep, all required maintenance and calibration of radar units is performed, records kept, and that appropriate certificates are on file with the Municipal Court.