

## Eveleth Police Department

### Operation of Police Vehicles without Head/Taillights Illuminated

**Effective:** August 21, 2014 (Replaces policy 8-1-2000)

**Purpose:** To provide a uniform guideline for all department personnel to use when operating a departmental vehicle without headlights or taillights illuminated while in the line of duty as a Police Officer for the City of Eveleth.

**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 Eveleth.
2. **Lights:** Refers to headlights and taillights as referenced in Minnesota Statutes 84.86, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65, and 361.15.

**Procedure:**

1. A police officer **may** operate a vehicle without lights illuminated **only:**
  - a) In the performance of official duties, and
  - b) If the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary under the circumstances to investigate a criminal violation or suspected violation of applicable laws, rules, ordinances or regulations.
2. A police officer **may not** operate a vehicle without lights illuminated:
  - a) On an interstate highway;
  - b) At speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, traffic and road conditions;
  - c) Faster than the posted speed limit
  - d) In situations where the police officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a fleeing motor vehicle (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 609.487)
  - e) Contrary to the elements on Minnesota Statute 169.541 (see file attached)

**Responsibility:** It shall be the responsibility of every employee to be thoroughly familiar with and follow this exactly the procedures outlined and statutes referenced in this policy at any time while employed as a police officer for the City of Eveleth.

Timothy H. Koivunen, Chief of Police