

# SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

DAVID VALENTIN · CHIEF OF POLICE

## TRAINING BULLETIN

*"Education promotes professional and responsive law enforcement"*

### Patrol Car Decontamination

#### Purpose

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to standardize a procedure for the decontamination of the interior of police vehicles.

#### Introduction

Police officers transport a variety of persons in the back of the marked units. Many have medical problems and some purposely contaminate the car by urinating, defecating, or vomiting while inside the patrol car. This Training Bulletin will assist the officer in the proper cleaning and decontamination of the patrol car and establish guidelines to protect the welfare of officers as well as the next occupants of that vehicle.

#### I. Procedures for Cleaning and Decontamination

After the subject has been taken out of the police car and the officer is aware of a possible contaminated substance in the car, the officer shall first put on latex gloves and a mask before any cleaning. He/she shall then immediately spray the liquid or solid matter with "*Coverage HB*", a commercially prepared disinfectant spray. This spray shall be supplied by the Department and kept in the trunk of every patrol car. The officer shall insure a "*Coverage HB*" spray bottle is in the trunk during the inspection of the patrol car at the beginning of his/her shift. This spray will also be kept in the Vehicle Storage Room along with a Shop Vac, masks, coveralls, gloves, and paper towels.

Once the contaminant matter is sprayed it should be vacuumed by using the Departmental "*Car Decontamination Shop Vac*", stored in the Vehicle Storage Room. If the contaminant is liquid, the officer should use a bag of absorbent/deodorant. Bags of absorbents are also kept in the "*Vehicle Storage Room*" and in the trunk of every patrol car. Officers may use a mask and coveralls if needed. Once vacuumed, the contents must be emptied into a red "*infectious waste*" plastic bag which will be kept near the vacuum. **This bag must be placed into the waste container marked "Bio Hazard" in the SAPD Evidence Room Bike locker on the loading dock for disposal.** It shall not be placed in regular trash. The officer may also use paper towels with the "*Coverage HB*" spray for cleaning. The shop vac shall be sprayed with "*Coverage HB*" disinfectant and cleaned before storage.

#### Summary

Cleaning the patrol car after contamination is the responsibility of the officer. The use of latex gloves, coveralls, masks, disinfectant, paper towels, absorbents, and a shop vac is vital for the safety of the officer and future occupants of the vehicle. All equipment and necessary materials are stored in the Vehicle Storage room of the Department. Current law mandates proper disposal of infectious waste. By using the supplied equipment, the cleaning of the patrol car after contamination can be done in a matter of minutes.

**Acknowledgment:** This training bulletin was researched and prepared by Cpl. Troy Guidry with the assistance of Santa Ana Paramedic Dawn Cooper. 08/01

**Reviewed By:** Sgt. T. Guidry

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