


FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

	SUBJECT UNMARKED PATROL VEHICLES	POLICY NUMBER 17.19
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17.19.01 PURPOSE

To establish policy, guidelines and limitations concerning the use of unmarked Division vehicles by members of the Florida Highway Patrol.

17.19.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to safely and effectively use unmarked patrol vehicles while ensuring the safety and confidence of the motoring public.

17.19.03 DEFINITION

UNMARKED PATROL VEHICLE - Any police vehicle that is equipped with emergency equipment, but not marked with distinctive emblems and/or colors.

17.19.04 OBJECTIVE

To establish guidelines that will ensure members safely and effectively use unmarked patrol vehicles during routine patrol duties and special enforcement details; to ensure that the safety and confidence of the public are not jeopardized by the use of unmarked patrol vehicles; to establish guidelines for the use of unmarked patrol vehicles by investigators and command staff.

17.19.05 PROCEDURES

A. ENFORCEMENT DETAILS

1. Troop/District Commanders may authorize the use of unmarked patrol vehicles for routine patrol as well as specialized enforcement details, such as truck enforcement, selective speed enforcement, aggressive driving and intersection enforcement.
2. Prior to stopping the violator's vehicle, members will activate his/her emergency equipment, lights and then siren if necessary, and will put on their uniform hat to facilitate their identification as a law enforcement officer.

3. Members will use discretion and patience while attempting to stop a violator when using an unmarked patrol vehicle. Members will allow the violator to slow and proceed to a populated area or other site, a well-lit area for example, where the motorist feels at ease stopping.
4. If a member encounters a motorist who fails to immediately stop after the emergency equipment has been activated, but is not attempting to flee and elude, the member will follow the violator in a safe manner and obtain the assistance of a marked unit, either from the FHP or a local agency. The possibility of the violator being afraid and of being stopped by someone other than a law enforcement officer shall be considered by the member. This procedure will not be considered a pursuit but shall be considered as a failure to stop and reported as defined in FHP Policy 17.05.
5. Members assigned to specialized enforcement details will be in uniform. The use of civilian clothing during specialized traffic enforcement details is prohibited.

B. TRAFFIC STOPS WHILE WEARING CIVILIAN ATTIRE

1. Investigators and command staff should not attempt to affect a traffic stop for a minor traffic violation while wearing civilian attire and operating an unmarked patrol vehicle.
2. In the event an investigator or command staff member observes a serious traffic violation or criminal offense, the member will immediately contact the Regional Communications Center and attempt to obtain the assistance of a uniformed member (FHP or local agency) to stop the violator's vehicle. In the event there is not a uniformed member available, the member is authorized to stop the vehicle. **MEMBERS MUST USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN STOPPING A VEHICLE WHILE WEARING CIVILIAN ATTIRE.**
 - a. The member will display their badge and identification card in a manner that will allow the motorist to observe the indicia while not jeopardizing the safety of the member.
 - b. The member will immediately identify himself or herself verbally to the motorist and explain the reason for the stop.
3. If the motorist is uncomfortable or worried, the member will call for the assistance of a uniformed member operating a patrol vehicle or the member of a local agency.
4. Investigators and command staff members are authorized to affect traffic stops for any violation while wearing the FHP uniform and operating an unmarked patrol vehicle.
 - a. Members will abide by the procedures listed in "A" above, except that traffic stops may be made by command staff

and investigators in uniform during both the daylight and nighttime hours.

- b. Investigators and command staff members will be extremely aware of the safety of themselves and the violator, as well as the fears a motorist may have concerning stopping for an unmarked patrol vehicle at night.