

Vehicle Safety Belts

911.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members of the Department wear safety belts while operating or riding in department vehicles or privately owned vehicles while conducting department business. The use of safety belts and other safety restraints significantly reduces the chance of death or injury in case of a traffic accident.

911.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Washington Township Fire Department that all members shall wear properly adjusted safety restraints or safety harnesses when operating or positioned in any vehicle owned, leased or rented by this department, or in any privately owned vehicle while on-duty. The member driving such a vehicle shall ensure that all occupants, including any non-members, are properly restrained (MCL 257.710e; Mich. Admin. Code, R 408.17421).

911.3 INOPERABLE SAFETY BELTS

No person shall operate department vehicles in which the safety belt in the driver's position is inoperable. No person shall be transported in a seating position in which the safety belt is inoperable (MCL 257.710e ; Mich. Admin. Code, R 408.17421).

No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicle safety belts, except for vehicle maintenance and repair staff, who shall do so only with the express authorization of the Fire Chief.

Members who discover an inoperable restraint system shall report the defect to the appropriate supervisor. Prompt action will be taken to replace or repair the system.