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| Policy #**Safety Equipment** | Related Policies: |
| *This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third-party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis for internal discipline and/or criminal charges.* |
| Applicable State Statutes: K.R.S. 189.125 |
| KACP Accreditation Standard: 21.4, 29.1, 29.4 |
| Date Implemented: | Revision Date: May 1, 2025 |

1. **Purpose**: The purpose of this policy is to direct the use and maintenance of safety equipment by members of this agency.
2. **Policy:** It is the policy of this agency to provide for the safety of each of its employees. Toward this goal, officers and other employees must make use of all available safety equipment.
3. **Procedure:**
	1. **Seat Belts:** Officers and Employees are directed that seat belts shall be worn during the operation of any vehicle at all times.
	2. **Ballistic Vests:** All Officers shall be required to wear a ballistic vest during all field operations. The only exceptions are: undercover operations where the wearing of a vest will inhibit the officer’s ability to remain in character; an officer assigned to administrative duties in the police building and where the officer obtains a doctor’s note indicating that he or she cannot wear a vest for medical reasons.
	3. **Personal Protective Equipment:**  Personal protective equipment will be provided by the department in accordance with Kentucky State law, and administrative and OSHA regulations.  Direct contact with blood and other body fluids should be avoided whenever possible. Employees are required to use appropriate equipment to prevent transmission of contagious diseases. In the event of any type of possible exposure, i.e. needle stick or blood contamination, the employee will notify a supervisor as soon as practical, document the incident, and seek appropriate medical treatment
	4. **Firearms Lock-Boxes:** Officers shall safely secure their firearm in all circumstances where the officer’s firearm presents a threat to the officer because of required proximity to prisoners/suspects i.e. booking areas; interrogation rooms; and, holding cells.
	5. **Reflective Traffic Vest:** Officers shall make use of a reflective traffic vest when they will be in a position for an extended period of time that exposes them to the dangers of vehicular traffic i.e. directing traffic; accident scenes; and crossing-guard assignments.
	6. **Other Equipment:** Police vehicles shall be maintained with safety equipment i.e. binoculars, fire extinguisher, traffic vest and any other mandated equipment required under the Kentucky Revised Statutes and OSHA.
4. **Maintenance of Safety Equipment - Officer Responsibility:** Officers are responsible for the maintenance of all safety equipment and will notify a supervisor as soon as practical of missing or damaged equipment.
5. **The failure to utilize safety equipment will not be considered contributory to an officer’s injury for purposes of injuries which occur in the line of duty.**