

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
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**To:** CSU Presidents

**From:** Jackie R. McClain   
Vice Chancellor  
Human Resources

**Subject:** Emergency Police Vehicle Use

The California State University (CSU) Use of University and Private Vehicles policy guidelines have been established by Risk Management in conjunction with systemwide Human Resources and the Office of General Counsel. This memorandum provides supplemental policy guidelines specific to emergency police vehicle use.

**Authorization to Use Emergency Police Vehicles**

California Vehicle Code §165 defines an authorized emergency vehicle. Only the president has authority to assign use of marked and unmarked police vehicles for university activities.

**Use of Seatbelts<sup>1</sup> for CSU Police Personnel**

CSU policy requires that police personnel use seatbelts while driving university-owned vehicles, unless there is an overriding safety consideration that precludes compliance such as:

- When arriving at an emergency call, the operator may remove the restraint device just prior to stopping for quick exit and to prevent becoming entangled in the restraint device.
- Department personnel may remove the safety restraint device just prior to coming to a stop on a vehicle/traffic stop.

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<sup>1</sup> California Vehicle Code §27315 exempts police officers in police emergency vehicles from the state's mandatory seatbelt law, unless the agency requires its officers to wear seatbelts.

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- If a passenger or operator has a physically disabling or medical condition which prevents appropriate restraint in a safety belt, use of a seatbelt is not required. The condition must be duly certified by a licensed physician, surgeon or chiropractor who states the nature of the condition, as well as the reason the restraint is inappropriate.

Questions may be directed to the CSU Police Coordinator, systemwide Human Resources or the Office of General Counsel, as appropriate. This document is available on the Human Resources Administration's Web site at: <http://www.calstate.edu/HRAdm/memos.shtml>.

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