



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING INSTRUCTION

CAMERA TRAILERS

ISSUED: February 4, 2026	EFFECTIVE: February 4, 2026	REVIEWED/APPROVED BY: Assistant Chief Steven Johnson DATE: December 31, 2025
ACTION: Amends SOI (January 8, 2024)		WILEAG STANDARD(S): NONE

I. BACKGROUND / PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedure governing the deployment and operation of camera trailers.

II. GOAL

To provide portable, battery operated video surveillance.

III. DEPLOYMENT CRITERIA

- A. Deployment, transport, maintenance and storage of the camera trailers shall remain the authority and responsibility of the Specialized Patrol Division. Members of the Specialized Patrol Division and/or an assistant chief's designee are the only personnel authorized to deploy, dismantle or transport camera trailers.
- B. Camera trailers may be requested by any work location provided the request is made by a member with the rank of lieutenant of police or higher. Requests for camera trailers by outside area law enforcement agencies must be approved by an inspector of police or higher authority.
 1. The camera trailer can be used for any event, incident or venue where the use of surveillance cameras is deemed necessary. The primary function of a camera trailer is for use in large crowd settings or events, or where the need for off-site area surveillance is necessary.
 2. Work locations requesting use of a camera trailer shall contact a Specialized Patrol Division supervisor.

IV. CAMERA CONSIDERATIONS, OPERATION, AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Cameras can be deployed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- B. Cameras shall not be deployed or removed unless two persons are present. The Specialized Patrol Division will deploy the camera trailer(s) with the assistance of the requesting work location.

- C. The Specialized Patrol Division will arrange for the installation of the trailer viewing software on either a desktop or a mobile laptop at the requesting work location and will instruct users on camera and software operations.
- D. When the camera trailer is deployed by the Specialized Patrol Division, one camera will be aimed [REDACTED] At least one camera must remain aimed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at all times to [REDACTED] This camera will be monitored continually by the user work location for the duration of the trailer deployment.
- E. In the event a trailer is deployed, but is no longer needed for surveillance, the work location remains responsible for monitoring the trailer until picked up by the Specialized Patrol Division.
- F. The Specialized Patrol Division will be responsible for all mechanical maintenance of and repairs to the trailers. The Information Technology Division is responsible for all software and technology repairs and maintenance of trailers, cameras, and associated equipment. If a trailer is damaged or becomes inoperable, the Specialized Patrol Division shall be notified immediately by contacting a Specialized Patrol Division supervisor.



JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

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