

608	RAMSEY POLICE POLICY UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLES (UGV)	
Adoption Date: 07/20/2023		Revised Date: 07/20/2023

608.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of Unmanned Ground Vehicles.

608.02 POLICY

The Ramsey Police Department may deploy an Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) when a peace officer believes doing so will increase the safety of the public and/or peace officer. The UGV should only be deployed in a location where a licensed peace officer has the constitutional right to enter that building or location. This means a search warrant may be needed for the use of UGV's inside a building or structure unless exigent circumstances are present (i.e. hot pursuits, destruction of evidence, emergencies).

608.03 HANDLING AND STORAGE

The UGV should be stored at the Ramsey Police Department while not in use. Peace officers may carry the UGV in a squad car while on duty, but shall return it to its storage location at the end of every shift. The UGV batteries should be put in charging mode when not in use.

608.04 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING UGVs

A UGV described in this policy may be carried in a squad car and used by a peace officer, or employee working under the direction of a peace officer, who has successfully completed department approved training in the use of UGV. Some examples of situations where the deployment of a UGV would provide increased safety to the public and/or peace officer may include:

- To communicate with a suspect.
- To locate a suspect.
- To search a structure (i.e. search warrant, alarms, unsecure structure).

All live streaming shall be recorded using the BWC or recorded on the department issued phone and uploaded to Evidence.com. UGV options to live stream include the use of BWC using (Bluetooth or Cellular connection) or Department issued cell phones. UGV use for training is not required to be recorded and uploaded.

Any use of a UGV shall be documented in a report along with the offense code, except for testing or training.

608.05 EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT

When deploying a UGV, all manufacturer's instructions should be followed. Whenever an peace officer is operating a UGV, the officer should do so behind cover and should have a cover officer when possible.

608.06 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

This section establishes the responsibilities of supervisors, equipment users, and training/equipment personnel.

TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

UGV instructors shall control the inventory, training, and issuance of UGVs to assigned personnel or teams and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperable, outdated, or expended UGVs batteries, and related devices are properly disposed of, repaired, or replaced, as appropriate.

Every UGV will be periodically inspected by the users or UGV instructors. The inspection shall be documented according to established procedures.

OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

All routine maintenance, charging, or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of the member using the UGV and shall be in accordance with manufacturer recommendations or training.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated, or expended UGVs or batteries or related accessories, along with documentation explaining any cause of the damage, shall be returned to the assigned, UGV instructors. When appropriate, a report or memo explaining the cause of damage shall be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command.