
Impaired Driving

514.1 POLICY

The Vancouver Police Department will pursue fair but aggressive enforcement of Washington's impaired driving laws. All officers are expected to enforce impaired driving laws with due diligence.

The Department recognizes that Impaired Driving procedures change over time due to many factors and places responsibility on the Traffic Unit to maintain a current DUI Procedures Manual for use by Department personnel. The procedures in the DUI Procedures Manual should be followed by officers with any exceptions based on articulable reasons and supervisory approval, if feasible.

All sworn employees at the rank of Sergeant and below assigned to patrol and traffic enforcement must ensure their breath test and Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) training is current.

514.2 FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS

Officers conduct Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) according to Department approved training.

514.3 IMPLIED CONSENT

- A. Implied Consent only applies to breath tests.
- B. Officers utilize the WSP DUI Arrest Report form for the implied consent process.

514.4 BREATH TESTS

Officers utilize BAC instruments consistent with Washington State Patrol (WSP) training. The State of Washington uses breath tests as the primary testing procedure for impaired drivers.

514.4.1 BREATH TESTING INSTRUMENTS

WSP is responsible for servicing all BAC instruments used for the collection and analysis of breath samples. If a BAC instrument is malfunctioning, officers should notify their supervisor and WSP by calling CRESA dispatch.

The Department issues and maintains instruments known as Preliminary Breath Tests (PBTs). The PBTs are to be calibrated every 6 months and are to be used according to WAC 448-15.

514.5 BLOOD TESTS

An officer may obtain a blood sample for testing purposes when the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the individual was driving or was in physical control of a vehicle under the influence. An individual's refusal to provide a breath sample does not prevent an officer from obtaining a blood sample pursuant to a warrant or valid exception to the warrant requirement.

Only persons authorized by law to withdraw blood shall collect blood samples (RCW 46.61.506).

The withdrawal of the blood sample should be witnessed by the processing officer.

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514.6 RECORDS DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vancouver Police Department Record's Division will ensure that all case related records are transmitted according to current procedures and as required by the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and/or Vancouver City Attorney's Office.

514.7 TRAINING

The Training Unit shall ensure that all sworn officers receive training on impaired driver investigations and procedures.