

254. PATROL ROBOTS



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

Effective Date:	01/01/2024
No. of Pages:	2
Serial Number:	10-154
Authority:	Chief Jay Henthorne

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidance for the use, storage, and maintenance of patrol robots.

II. POLICY

The Richfield Police Department's patrol robots may be deployed when an officer believes the robot will increase the safety of the public and/or the officer. The patrol robot should only be deployed into a location where an officer has the constitutional right to enter. In general, utilizing the patrol robot inside a structure will require a search warrant. However, the robot may be used when the emergency aid doctrine and/or exigent circumstances exist.

III. PROCEDURE

Handling and Storage

Patrol robots will be stored in protective cases when not in use. Batteries should be put in charging mode when the robots are at the police department. Patrol robots can either be stored at a designated location inside the police department or in a designated vehicle.

Issuing, Carrying, and Using Patrol Robots

A robot described in this policy may be carried in a patrol vehicle and used by an officer who has successfully completed department-approved training in the use of the robot. Some examples of situations where the deployment of a robot would provide increased safety to the public and/or officer may include:

- To communicate with a suspect
- To locate a suspect
- To search a structure

When deploying the robot, all manufacturer's instructions should be followed. The robot operator should utilize cover and should have a cover officer assigned. Only department issued video devices should be utilized with a patrol robot.

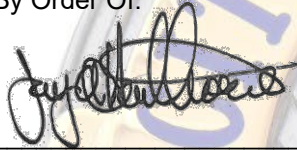
Use of a patrol robot may cause property damage. Robot operators should take reasonable measures to mitigate any damage that may occur.

Trainer, Officer and Supervisor Responsibilities

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

- **Trainer(s):** The assigned sergeant/lieutenant shall control the inventory, training, and issuance of all robots. These individuals are also responsible for the maintenance, inspection, repair, replacement, or disposal of damaged, inoperative, or outdated patrol robots.
- **Officer(s):** All routine maintenance, cleaning, and charging shall be the responsibility of the officer using the robot and shall be in accordance with manufacture's recommendations. Any damaged, inoperative, or outdated components shall be returned to a supervisor with documentation explaining the status of the robot.
- **Supervisor(s):** On-duty sergeants shall monitor the use of patrol robots. A request to use a robot should be made through an on-duty sergeant. Sergeants are also responsible ensuring damage or repair issues are addressed in a timely manner.

By Order Of:



Chief of Police

