

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-12	PAGE 1 of 4
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-30-1995	
	REVISION DATE: 07-12-2012	
SUBJECT: Transportation of Prisoners Policy		
Michael R. Styler, Executive Director		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers working for the Department of Natural Resources with guidelines for the transportation of all persons taken into custody.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the department, while transporting prisoners to take the precautions necessary to protect the lives and safety of the officers, the public and the person being transported.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Vehicle Inspection

1. Before transporting a prisoner, the transporting vehicle shall be inspected for readiness as follows:
 - a. All windows shall be intact and outer door latches in proper working order.
 - b. The interior shall be thoroughly searched to ensure that no weapons, items that could be used as a weapon or contraband are left unsecured in the vehicle.
2. After the prisoner has been delivered to a detention facility or other destination, the transporting officer shall search the transporting vehicle for weapons or contraband that may have been left.

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-12	PAGE 2 of 4
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-30-1995	
	REVISION DATE: 07-12-2012	
SUBJECT: Transportation of Prisoners Policy		
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B. Handcuffing

1. Officers shall handcuff (double locked) all prisoners with their hands behind their back except as stated below.
2. The officer may handcuff the prisoner with hands in front or utilize other appropriate restraining devices where the prisoner:
 - a. Is in an obvious state of pregnancy.
 - b. Has a physical handicap.
 - c. Has injuries that could be aggravated.
 - d. Must be transported a considerable distance over rough roads.
 - e. Has arms that cannot be physically joined in the back.
 - f. Persons known to the officer to be non-threatening.

In these cases, the handcuffs shall be secured with a belt, with the buckle located to the rear, or other restraint devices.

3. Prisoners shall not be handcuffed to any part of a vehicle during transport.
4. Additional approved restraint devices may be used to secure violent prisoners or those who manifest mental disorder.

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-12	PAGE 3 of 4
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-30-1995	
	REVISION DATE: 07-12-2012	
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5. When hands and wrists are too large/small for metal handcuffs, plastic handcuffs shall be used.

C. Transport

1. Prior to transport, each prisoner shall be thoroughly searched for any weapons or tools that would help to facilitate escape.
 - a. If practical, the protective search should be conducted by an officer of the same sex as the prisoner.
 - b. The transporting officer should search the prisoner, unless a search was conducted in the officer's presence.
2. When transporting prisoners, the officer shall provide the communications center with the following information when possible.
 - a. Identity of the prisoner being transported.
 - b. Arrest location and destination of transport.
 - c. Mileage readings at the beginning and at the end of transport.
3. The officer should use care when assisting a prisoner into the vehicle for transport.

State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	REF. NR-95-C-12	PAGE 4 of 4
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 05-30-1995	
	REVISION DATE: 07-12-2012	
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4. Prisoners shall be transported in the following manner:
 - a. The prisoner shall be placed in the right front seat of pickup trucks or SUV style (2-door) vehicles.
 - b. When a prisoner is being transported in a vehicle with rear doors, the prisoner shall be placed in the right rear seat behind the right front passenger seat. If a second officer is available they shall sit in the left rear seat behind the driver.
 - c. One transporting officer should not attempt to transport more than one prisoner in a vehicle.
 - d. All prisoners shall be secured in the vehicle by proper use of a seatbelt.
5. Any wheelchairs, crutches, unattached prosthetic devices and medication should be transported with, but not in the possession of, the prisoner.
6. Prisoners shall not be left unattended during transport. Any escape shall be immediately reported to the communications center.