

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Fergus Falls Police Department

Policy Title	Policy Statement on Response to Incidents on a School Bus
Policy Number	511 (Formerly 70.08)
References	Minnesota State Statute 169.4581
Effective Date	November 1, 2010
Distribution	All Licensed Peace Officers and Administrative Coordinator
Rescinds	September 1995, September 1996, April 2003

PURPOSE

Children are without a doubt the most precious cargo being carried upon our public highways. Accordingly, it is imperative that the method by which many children travel to and from school be as safe as possible. This method is often by means of school buses. There is recognition that children traveling by such means may face dangers not only from outside traffic but from other occupants of the bus as well.

POLICY

Fergus Falls Police Officers shall respond to reports of alleged criminal incidents which occur on school buses. The Police Department shall work with and consult school officials, transportation personnel, parents of students, and students to respond to these incidents. Our goal is to provide student safety and deal appropriately with those who violate the law. This department holds a responsibility to coordinate with any other law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the alleged offense. This department's response is supplemental and does not replace school disciplinary policies which relate to student misconduct on school buses.

PROCEDURE

- I. Officers of the Fergus Falls Police Department shall:
 - A. Respond to calls for assistance from any citizen, school employee, or bus transportation company employee as they may pertain to alleged criminal conduct on school buses.
 - B. Issue citations, release pending further investigation, or apprehend and transport individuals committing crimes on school buses to the extent authorized by law.
 - C. Investigate reports of crimes committed on school buses by using the same procedures as followed in other criminal investigations involving juveniles or adults as appropriate.

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- D. Submit appropriate reports to the Fergus Falls Police Department's Records Section and the appropriate prosecuting attorney's office.
- E. Follow through with any other investigation necessary to prepare a case pertaining to alleged criminal conduct on school buses as requested by the prosecuting attorney.
- F. Provide information to a representative of the appropriate school district as required or authorized by law.