

TO: Police Chiefs, Public Safety Directors, and Fund Commissioners

FROM: Chief Keith F. Hummel (Ret.)
J. A. Montgomery Consulting

DATE: May 29, 2020

RE: Ford Develops Process to Heat and Decontaminate Its Patrol SUVs
LE Bulletin 2020-04

In response to an idea from New York police officers concerned about the coronavirus,ⁱ The Ford Motor Company announced it is launching a “heated sanitation software” technology that helps disinfect vehicle touchpoints. The new software program allows the vehicle’s interior to heat up beyond 133 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes. The Ford Motor Company worked closely with Ohio State University and determined that exposing coronavirus to temperatures to 56 degrees Celsius or 132.8 degrees Fahrenheit reduces the viral concentration by greater than 99 percent on interior surfaces and materials inside of Ford’s Police Interceptor Utility vehicles.ⁱⁱ

These cleaning efforts may help disinfect vehicles between officer assignments and passenger transports. This upgrade along with cleaning guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention will assist agencies with the process of keeping their officers and citizens safe.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

Contact your local Ford Dealership for additional information on this software upgrade.

Once this software is installed, policies, procedures, and training should be developed to provide officers with guidance on how and when this “heating” procedure should be completed.

If you have any questions or should need assistance from the Safety Directors office feel free to call or contact me at khummel@jamontgomery.com or call 856-470-0699.

Stay safe and thank you for your service!

Resources:

ⁱ <https://www.freep.com/story/money/cars/ford/2020/05/27/ford-sanitizing-police-interceptor-suv-coronavirus-heat/5264453002/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.policemag.com/556748/ford-develops-process-to-heat-and-decontaminate-its-patrol-suvs>