

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

DIRECTIVE

DIRECTIVE NUMBER: E-5-24 A

SUBJECT: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EQUIPMENT GUIDELINES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/15/2024

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Review every four years, will only be updated if substantive changes are required.

APPENDIX: None

REFERENCE: Minnesota Statute 84D and DNR Operational Order 113

DISTRIBUTION: All Conservation Officers

NUMBER OF PAGES: 4

This directive is for division use only and does not modify or supersede any law and should not apply to any criminal or civil proceeding except civil proceedings related to departmental administrative actions. This directive should not be viewed as creating a higher standard of safety or care in any evidentiary sense. Violations of this directive may form the basis for departmental administrative action.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide direction to officers on compliance with Minnesota State Statute 84D and Operational Order 113 (Invasive Species) in an effort to prevent or limit the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species while performing field law enforcement activities.

II. GOAL/OBJECTIVE

Officers will inspect patrol vehicles and water-related equipment, and clean and drain vehicles and water-related equipment to reduce the threat of transporting/introducing invasive species or pathogens. Inspection, drainage, and cleaning shall occur prior to leaving the access at a body of water. In addition to this process, when patrol vehicles or water-related equipment have been kept in or on bodies of water for extended

periods of time, the patrol vehicle or water-related equipment shall be decontaminated at an appropriate location.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Clean:** The removal of plants, invertebrates, and pathogens by physical, chemical, or biological methods.
- B. **Day Use:** Patrol vehicles or water-related equipment that have been placed into a water body and removed from that water body the same day.
- C. **Temporary Use:** Patrol vehicles and water-related equipment that have been placed into a water body for less than 24 hours.
- D. **Extended Use: Water-related equipment that has been placed into a water body for greater than 24 hours.**
- E. **Decontaminate:** To wash, drain, dry, thermally or otherwise treat water-related equipment in order to remove or destroy aquatic invasive species.
- F. **Inspect:** To examine water-related equipment to determine whether aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present and includes removal, drainage, decontamination, or treatment to prevent the transportation and spread of aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, and water.
- G. **Infested waters:** Water designated by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources that contain a population of an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters if use of the water related activities are not regulated to prevent this movement.

IV. PROCEDURES

The primary threat for movement of invasive species by officer activities is through the movement of patrol vehicles and associated water-related equipment (paddles, anchors, hip boots/waders, etc.). Some unique activities such as fish stocking by aircraft will require a coordinated effort with Division of Fish and Wildlife staff. Officers shall ensure that they are aware of designated infested waters within their patrol area.

- A. **Sequence of Patrol Locations:**
Officers should sequence the bodies of water where they plan to patrol in an effort to patrol infested areas last. This will reduce the possibility of transporting/introducing invasive species from infested areas to non-infested areas.
- B. **Pressure washers and cleaning resources:**
Officers shall know where they can find the appropriate cleaning and decontamination equipment such as pressure washers at DNR offices, DNR

decontamination stations run by watercraft inspectors, or commercial washing establishments.

C. Day and Temporary Use:

1. Leaving Waters: Upon leaving a water body, officers will take the necessary precautions at the access point to ensure that patrol vehicles and water-related equipment is inspected, drained, and cleaned. This process will take place on land in the immediate area where the officer accessed the water body. The watercraft may be decontaminated as determined by the officer.
2. Entering Waters: Before launching/unloading at a water body, inspect and clean all water-related equipment.

D. Extended Use:

Officers who are not a day user or temporary user of a water body shall ensure that, in addition to the day and temporary use provisions outlined above, all patrol vehicles and water-related equipment is decontaminated prior to using the equipment in another waterbody.

E. Seized/Confiscated Water-Related Equipment:

An additional threat for movement of invasive species is the transportation of seized equipment (boats, trailers, minnow traps, nets, anchoring gear, etc.). Officers shall ensure that any seized equipment is inspected, cleaned, and drained before transporting. Officers will also ensure that equipment is decontaminated prior to the final disposition of the seized equipment.

F. Drain Plug:

Officer patrol vehicles are considered emergency response vehicles. Emergency response vehicles and equipment may be transported on a public road with the drain plug or similar device replaced only after all the water has been drained from water-related equipment upon leaving the water body.

G. Drying:

If practical, patrol vehicles and water-related equipment should be dried before entering another body of water.

H. Exceptions:

In situations where officers are responding to an emergency where human life is in peril, all reasonable efforts shall be made to prevent the transportation or introduction of an invasive species. The need to respond immediately shall be weighed against the potential threat of not conducting preventative measures of thoroughly inspecting and removing organisms from equipment.

V. REPORTING

Officers who observe new suspected infestations of invasive species shall collect specimens and shall report the location, date, and time of sample and forward to the appropriate Division of Ecological and Water Resources staff. Officers who are contacted by the public reporting suspected new infestations shall either take the appropriate referral or assist the reporting party in getting any sample/information to the appropriate Department of Natural Resources staff.

VI. TRAINING

All officers will be trained in the proper techniques to inspect, clean, drain, and decontaminate patrol vehicles and other water-related equipment. Officers will also be trained on new laws and operational orders as they become enacted.

By Authority of:

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