

NEWBURYPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT – STATE CERTIFIED

The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MA-PAC) awarded state certification to the Newburyport Police Department on July 31, 2003. The Newburyport Police Department is only the 13th department in the Commonwealth to achieve this distinction, at the time of this posting.

Certification is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the profession, by the profession. It consists of compliance with 151 mandatory standards set by the MA-PAC. The standards used by the Commission are based upon national standards that reflect the best professional practices in

- police management
- operations and technical support activities
- policy development
- emergency response planning
- training
- communications
- property and evidence handling
- use of force
- vehicle pursuit
- prisoner transportation and holding

The program not only sets the standards for the law enforcement profession within the Commonwealth, but also for the delivery of police services to the citizenry.

A two day, on site assessment was conducted in June 2003, by the Commission. Three assessors toured the facility, reviewed files and documents, and sought public input. The assessors then presented their findings to the MA-PAC. After the Commission's review, Newburyport Police Department was found to be in compliance with the 151 mandatory standards and was approved for certification, which is valid for three years.

The benefits of certification include

- provides a means of independent evaluation of the agency's operations
- provides a basis to correct deficiencies in the agency's operation
- provides a norm for the agency to judge its performance
- has the potential to reduce liability insurance
- promotes accountability among agency personnel
- increases the community confidence in its police

This is a significant accomplishment and is highly regarded in the law enforcement community. Participation in the certification process provides quality assurance reviews of the agency and it allows departments to demonstrate that they are among the finest in the state. The Newburyport Police Department has received recognition for meeting standards of excellence in policing.