



# Moraga Police Department

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The following are the results from the question regarding the wearing of Patrol Suspenders on duty. 27 agencies responded to my inquiry, of those;

- 14 agencies approved their use (5 on a case by case review)
- 12 agencies did not approve (but 4 were interested)
- 1 agency was testing them.

Most agencies had no standing G.O. covering the allowance, but did anyway. Of the agencies that did allow their use, the majority started as a requested due to an injury.

- One agency stated upon approval, the officer wore the suspenders until he was once healed and then discontinued (his choice).
- One agency allowed their use with the utility uniform and not Class B or C.
- Additionally, most of his officers felt they were a hindrance.
- One agency allowed their use because it was prescribed by a doctor and they felt they had no choice.
- One agency commented that it becomes a fitness for duty issue and if they cannot do the job with the safety equipment issued then they shouldn't.

Comments from the officers that wore the suspenders were mainly that they felt the weight was better dispersed across the back and off the belt and after a long shift they didn't feel as fatigued.

Many agencies inquired if we allowed the newer lightweight nylon gear (we do), and suggested if not, to do so as they had good results. I did locate a major study from Canada, which can be found at [www.cprc.org](http://www.cprc.org); and another paper by Fabrice Czarnecki and Ira Janowitz. That information can be found in a report titled "From Clinics in Occupational and Environmental Medicine Volume 3 Issue 3, Pages 399-417, August 2003.

As a result, we allowed the use of the suspenders, for patrol duty, but the officer returned to light duty within the month after wearing them.

Chief Mark Ruppenthal  
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