

What You Need to Know: Once You Capture Body Camera Video, How Will You Tag and Upload It?

When deploying body cameras, it's important to determine policies and procedures for how video should be handled at the end of an officer's shift. For example, a department may want to identify all video files with relevant keyword tags to help with video management system (VMS) searches for a particular incident. Or it may want officers to add comments in the file to offer context before uploading it to the VMS. Both of these capabilities are helpful for using the videos as evidence or for training purposes.

Other questions to answer:

- Should video files be uploaded at the end of each work shift at the station or precinct office? Or throughout the shift as time is available, using a laptop or tablet with a cellular or Wi-Fi network connection?
- Will officers be required to tag and enter comments in each video file? If so, what are the guidelines for the type and extent of information to enter? Can the VMS automatically enter some of this information, e.g., the timestamp and GPS metadata recorded by the camera?
- Can camera data be integrated with data from the department's computer-aided dispatch or field reporting systems before it is transferred to the case file?
- What types of controls and audit trails need to be in place for post-upload viewing and annotation of videos by officers, supervisors and other department personnel?

CHECKLIST:

- ✓ If officers will be permitted to live stream video from the field, allocate the appropriate budget needed for additional bandwidth.
- ✓ Evaluate the user interface and control features of the VMS for tagging and commenting on videos by the camera user.
- ✓ Assess the types of automatic metadata appended automatically by the camera to the video file, such as the date, time and location of the recording.
- ✓ Analyze the capacity of internal and cellular networks for video streams and uploads.
- ✓ Review the traffic management features that will support concurrent video uploads and the VMS features for queuing video uploads to reduce the time officers spend on this task.