

Disabled Vehicles

506.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for officers and members of the Sahuarita Police Department (SPD) reference dealing with disabled vehicles and assisting motorists with disabled vehicles.

506.2 OFFICER AND MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. When an on-duty officer or member observes or becomes aware of a disabled vehicle or motorist associated with a disabled vehicle (stranded, in need of assistance, etc.), the officer or member shall make a reasonable effort to provide assistance.
- B. When an officer or member is dealing with a disabled vehicle or an associated motorist and is assigned to a call of higher priority, the officer or member shall advise dispatch of the location of the disabled vehicle or motorist and of their need or possible need for assistance.
 - 1. The officer or member shall make it clear to dispatch if the vehicle or motorist is creating a visual or physical hazard.
- C. The dispatcher should then assign another available officer or member to respond as soon as practicable.

506.3 EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE

In some cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance.

- A. When reasonably able to do, officers and members of the SPD will assist the motorist by providing reasonably available resources. The resources may be helping to call for a vehicle tow, use of a department cell phone for the motorist to call for assistance, a short ride to a different location, etc.
- B. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by SPD personnel will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of SPD resources and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist(s).
- C. Officers and members are to work to assure motorists are not stranded and in need of medical assistance or in need of basic necessities (i.e., food or water). Prior to leaving the motorist(s) the officer or member will ask the motorist(s) if there are any other reasonable actions the SPD may be able to assist with.
- D. Officers and members, while directly dealing with motorist(s), shall take reasonable efforts to assure that they and the motorist(s) are positioned so as not to be a traffic hazard (i.e., standing in an area where a passing vehicle could injure them).

506.4 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

- A. SPD personnel shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle.
- B. Officers or members may choose to assist a motorist in changing a tire or providing a jump start to a battery. If an officer or member assists a motorist in changing a tire, or

Sahuarita Police Department

Policy Manual

Disabled Vehicles

assisting with a jump start, they shall request a public assist call number. The officer or member shall include vehicle and driver information in the call notes (RMS).

- C. Officers shall not use any device (such as a slim-jim, etc.) to open a vehicle window or door.

506.5 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

- A. The relocation of disabled vehicles by officers or members by pushing or pulling a vehicle a short distance should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a visual or physical hazard presented by the disabled vehicle.
- B. Officers and members are permitted to use the push bumper on their department vehicle or a properly utilized tow strap and their department vehicle to relocate a disabled vehicle a short distance (to a position of safety).
- C. If an officer or member assists a motorist in moving a vehicle by using their assigned department vehicle to push or pull the disabled vehicle the officer or member shall include vehicle and driver information in the call notes (RMS) to document the public assist incident.
- D. If such movement of a vehicle is connected to a traffic collision, a call number for a public assist incident is not necessary as the information will be available in the collision report.

506.6 RELOCATION OF DISABLED MOTORIST(S)

- A. The relocation of a disabled motorist(s), whose vehicle does not present a visual or physical hazard, should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that their movement to a different location provides a greater level of safety for the motorist(s).
- B. Officers or members may stay with a motorist (stranded, in need of assistance, etc.) or transport them to a safe area. If a motorist(s) is transported to a different location, the officer or member shall generate a call number and include vehicle and driver information as well as where the person was transported to in the call notes (RMS).

506.7 POLICY ISSUANCE OR REVIEW

06/13/2024 - Reviewed by Chief John D. Noland - SP#002