

CITY OF BARSTOW

CALIFORNIA

POLICIES and PROCEDURES MANUAL:

POLICE

Subject: DISABLED VEHICLES

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to develop Department guidelines for the rendering of assistance to disabled motorists on highways and streets within the City of Barstow (CVC 20018).

REASONABLE ACTS OF ASSISTANCE

It shall be the duty of every on-duty sworn officer and Community Service Officer driving a city-owned vehicle to render reasonable assistance whenever the existence of a disabled motorist is brought to their attention. Reasonable assistance may be, but not limited to:

1. When the motorist and/or vehicle creates a potential hazard, the officer shall take steps to eliminate that hazard (i.e., use flares, direct traffic, etc.).
2. Advise dispatch to place a telephone call to a friend, tow company, taxi, automotive repair service or other source to obtain assistance.
3. If necessary, transport motorist to a place of safety. When transporting, the officer shall notify dispatch of destination, and this shall be documented on a desk complaint. If the person to be transported is a female, include time and mileage.

EXCEPTION

The officer is exempt from rendering assistance to a disabled motorist if he is on an emergency call, unless the disabled motorist situation appears to be more potentially dangerous than the original call.

NOTE: If the officer does not stop, he shall notify the dispatcher of the location of the disabled motorist so another unit may be dispatched.

OUT OF JURISDICTION

When an officer or Community Service Officer, while driving a marked police unit, observes a disabled motorist and this observation is made outside the City of Barstow, discretion may be used relative to stopping and assisting.

However, if it is apparent that an immediate hazard exists, then appropriate assistance shall be given to eliminate the hazard.

Reference:

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STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

State law requires that certain information be recorded for statistical purposes and reported to the California State Legislative Analyst. In order to comply with this law, dispatchers shall adhere to the following:

1. When a disabled motorist is reported in any manner, it shall be logged on a desk complaint. In addition to narrative, the desk complaint is to include:
 - a. time received
 - b. time assistance arrived
 - c. time assignment was complete
 - d. names of all officers involved
 - e. type of assistance rendered
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Records Division to compile and report statistical data to the State.

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