

## Disabled Vehicles

### 506.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Vehicle Code § 20018 provides that all law enforcement agencies having responsibility for traffic enforcement may develop and adopt a written policy to provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within their primary jurisdiction.

### 506.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

When an on-duty officer observes a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the officer should make a reasonable effort to provide general assistance. If that officer is assigned to a call of higher priority, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another available officer to respond for assistance as soon as practical.

### 506.3 EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by department personnel will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of departmental resources, and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

#### 506.3.1 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Department personnel should first check to ensure that emergency assistance is not needed. If needed, members should request additional resources via dispatch (fire, EMS, etc) and provide assistance as necessary.

#### 506.3.2 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Department personnel shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. The use of push bumpers to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

#### 506.3.3 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by members of this department by pushing or pulling a vehicle should only occur when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle. Rotational towing services can be requested via dispatch if the motorist does not have a preferred tow company/roadside assistance program previously selected.

#### 506.3.4 RELOCATION OF STRANDED MOTORIST

The relocation of a stranded motorist should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The department member may stay with the stranded motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.

### 506.4 PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

This written policy is available upon request.

Fresno State Police Department  
POLICY MANUAL

*Disabled Vehicles*

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