



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1501-10 Vehicle Lockout Tools

Section 1500 – Assigned Equipment

Effective Date: 6/23/2021

Supersedes Date: 6/6/2013

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for the emergency use of a vehicle lockout tool, (e.g., Slim-Jim).

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1020 Routine Patrol Functions](#)

.03 Definitions

Vehicle Lockout Tool: A thin, flat strip of metal used to unlock automobile doors without use of a key or lock pick. The hooked end of the tool is slipped between a car's window and the rubber seal, catching the rods that connect to the lock mechanism in an attempt to manipulate the door open.

.04 Procedure

Under emergency circumstances, (e.g., medical patient, child locked in vehicle), officers may consider the use of a vehicle lockout tool, Slim-Jim, or other appropriate tool, to gain access to a locked vehicle. In such cases, the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) will also be notified.

Non-emergency requests for the use of a Slim-Jim vehicle lockout tool device will be referred to locksmiths and/or tow services of choice of the person making the request. If a person requests a tow service but does not have a specific company that they wish to use, officers will inform the Communications Center of the request utilizing the next tow company on the tow list. Most new cars have internal guards to resist entry, and substantial damage may occur with the use of a vehicle lockout tool.

Officers will attempt to assist individuals who make a non-emergency request for lockout assistance in person by facilitating communications to family members, friends, businesses, or any other person that is requested so that the individual is not left stranded. Officers are expected to

use good judgment in solving these problems. A balance must be achieved in assisting a fellow member of the community and attending to higher priority matters.