
CHAMPAIGN POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY and PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 61.4

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC – ANCILLARY SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/09

REVISED DATE:

REFERENCE ILEAP: OPR.06.11
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INDEX AS:

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for assisting motorists, handling hazardous traffic conditions, and distributing traffic safety information.

POLICY:

61.4.1 ASSISTANCE TO MOTORISTS

A. The Department shall respond to motorists' requests for assistance and offer assistance whenever a stranded motorist is observed. If an officer is unable to assist a stranded motorist, the officer shall report the location and description of the stranded motorist to METCAD so that another officer may respond to the scene.

B. Types of services rendered.

1. General assistance.

- a. Information and directions: Officers shall provide information and directions when asked and shall remain familiar with various services and facilities available to help motorists.
- b. Disabled vehicles: Disabled vehicles on the roadway present a hazard to the stranded motorists and to other roadway users. For this reason, officers will at all times offer reasonable assistance to motorists who appear to be in need of aid.
- c. Department vehicles which are not equipped with "push bars" are prohibited from being used to push a disabled vehicle from the roadway.
- d. Officers may transport stranded motorists to the nearest convenient location where assistance may be obtained.

2. Mechanical assistance and towing services.

- a. Field personnel encountering motorists experiencing mechanical or other difficulties will make reasonable efforts to obtain appropriate assistance for the motorist.

- b. Field personnel will assist motorists in obtaining tow services when requested. The tow company requested by the motorist will be utilized provided the company can respond within a reasonable period of time. If the motorist does not have a personal choice, an authorized towing agency will be requested from the Department's rotational tow list.

3. Protection for stranded motorists.

- a. Stranded motorists should not be left unattended when they appear to be exposed to hazardous situations. Due consideration shall be afforded stranded motorists for factors that contribute to hazardous conditions, such as location, time of day or night, weather, and current priority of calls for service. When circumstances preclude an officer from remaining with a motorist's vehicle, the vehicle should be removed to a position of reasonable safety until the vehicle can be towed or the mechanical problem can be resolved.
- b. Field personnel who assist stranded motorists will communicate this to METCAD so that a dispatch ticket can be generated.
- c. When practical, motorists residing within the City of Champaign may be transported to their residence. Motorists residing outside of Champaign, but within reasonable distance, may be transported to their residence with the approval of a supervisor.
 - 1) If the motorist to be transported is of the opposite gender, METCAD is to be advised of the destination and the beginning and ending mileage.
 - 2) If assistance cannot be obtained for the motorist, he may be transported to the lobby of the Department where a telephone can be made available.
- d. During adverse weather conditions, officers shall make an effort to transport or arrange for transportation for persons who are stranded.

4. Emergency assistance.

Officers will render all practical assistance to users of the roadway who are involved in emergency situations.

- a. In medical emergencies:

- 1) Request the response of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the scene.
- 2) If possible, render first aid until the arrival of EMS personnel.
- 3) Officers shall not transport injured persons in a police vehicle.

- b. In cases involving gas leaks, vehicle fires, overturned vehicles, hazardous materials, trains, or aircraft, the response of the Champaign Fire Department shall also be requested.

ISSUING AUTHORITY



Anthony D. Cobb
Chief of Police
Champaign Police Department

61.4.2 HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

- A. Officers locating unsafe or hazardous roadway conditions (roadway debris, large potholes, etc.) shall take immediate corrective action to prevent crashes and/or damage to vehicles. Such action shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Standing by at the scene whenever possible with emergency lights activated until additional assistance arrives.
 2. Arranging for suitable barricades.
 3. Removing hazards from the roadway.
 4. Summoning the Public Works Department.

61.4.3 REMOVAL AND TOWING OF VEHICLES

- A. A written directive governing the towing of vehicles is found in Policy 61.5 – Removal and Towing of Vehicles.

61.4.4 TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The Department distributes educational materials on traffic laws and regulations, drunken driving prevention, safety restraint information, and traffic safety programs to the public. The purpose of providing these traffic education materials is to enhance the public understanding of safety programs and to gain their support for the Department's traffic enforcement efforts.
- B. Upon request and as a part of the Department's commitment to traffic safety, speakers will be made available to schools, community groups, and neighborhood groups to discuss traffic-related topics and provide training materials.