

A. PURPOSE. To establish methods and circumstances for the use of push bumpers mounted on patrol vehicles

B. GOALS

1. Minimize hazards to the public and to first responders by moving disabled vehicles from hazardous positions.
2. Reduce the necessity for patrol units to wait with disabled vehicles until wreckers arrive

C. SWORN PERSONNEL shall:

1. Be aware that push bumpers extend the length of the vehicle. Extra care is necessary during normal driving and parking.
2. Use push bumpers when moving a disabled vehicle—from a hazardous position to the nearest position of safety, such as:
 - a. Onto the shoulder of an expressway
 - b. To the nearest exit when no shoulder is available
 - c. To a parking lane from a traffic lane
 - d. To a parking lot from the traffic lane in incidents where no parking lane exists
3. Ensure a licensed driver is steering the pushed vehicle. Instruct the driver of the required technique (See Section D).
4. Push only automobiles and two-axle vans/pickup trucks, providing the bumpers and push bumper meet upon contact.
5. **Not** use push bumpers on vehicles that have flat or missing tires.

D. OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS. Police officers engaging the use of push bumpers shall:

1. Check to ensure the steering and braking systems of the disabled vehicle are operational.
2. Check with the driver to ensure they understand the process of the operation and where to steer the vehicle to.

3. Check the pushed vehicle's transmission to ensure it is in neutral with the parking brake disengaged.
4. Make certain that any load is secure and not a safety hazard.
5. Ease the patrol vehicle to the rear of the disabled vehicle.
6. Exit the patrol vehicle and visually ensure the bumpers make contact.
7. Ensure emergency lights are activated and the in-car video system is activated prior to pushing the vehicle at a low, steady speed.
8. Maintain contact between vehicles while in motion. If contact is broken, no attempt to re-engage shall be made until the pushed vehicle comes to a stop.
9. Separate vehicles when a sharp turn is executed.
10. Obey all traffic control devices. The driver of the pushed vehicle shall also be instructed to obey all traffic laws.
11. Report any damage occurring to either vehicle on a separate incident report in compliance with the "Injury or Damage Caused by/to Department Vehicles" procedure.
12. If there is damage to the patrol vehicle, the vehicle must be written up, taken out of service and parked in the motor pool.