

 Kinston Police Department	<u>POLICY: Motorist Aid & Hazardous Conditions</u>						<u>POLICY #:</u> 500-5
	<u>NCLEA Standards:</u>						
	<u>CALEA Standards: 61.4.1; 61.4.2</u>						
	<u>NCLM Standards:</u>						
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised	Revision Dates:	01/01/21	05/05/25				Effective Date: 07-01-2019
Approval: Chief of Police							

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for officers assisting motorists and situations relating to hazardous highway conditions.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Motorist Aid: The act of assisting a motorist when one is need of aid due to an emergency situation or traffic accident.
- B. Hazardous Conditions: "Hazardous condition" means conditions that are likely to cause death or serious personal injury to persons exposed to such conditions.

III. POLICY

- A. Officers shall be alert for and, when possible, stop and assist motorists in need of aid. If an officer observes a motorist in need of assistance, and the officer is en-route to or on a call for service, the officer shall notify the Communications Center of the motorist's location so that a police officer may be dispatched to render assistance. Types of general assistance that may be provided to motorists by Kinston Police Department personnel include: **(CALEA 61.4.1)**
 - 1. Providing information or directions,
 - 2. Providing protection to stranded motorists,
 - 3. Contacting someone by telephone through the Communications Center,
 - 4. Transporting stranded motorists with approval of the on-duty shift supervisor,
 - 5. Changing flat tires, or
 - 6. Pushing vehicles out of the roadway.
- B. Officers may assist motorists in obtaining roadside repair or towing services. When assistance in obtaining such services is requested, the officer should determine if the motorist requests a specific service. If not, the officer should request the Communications Center to notify the next available service on the rotation list. Towing or repair services initiated by the motorist or at the request of the motorist do not require a Vehicle Storage Form.

- C. Under normal circumstances, officers shall not provide the following types of assistance unless specifically approved by the on-duty supervisor:
1. Providing mechanical repairs or using vehicles to push start cars,
 2. Transporting petroleum products.
- D. Officers providing assistance to, or standing by with, a disabled vehicle in the roadway shall have the police vehicle's emergency lights activated.

When assisting motorists, officers should remain alert to these possibilities:

1. The vehicle in the possession of the motorist has not been authorized for their use.
 2. The vehicle is in unsafe operating condition.
 3. The driver is impaired or otherwise not capable of safely operating the vehicle.
 4. The driver is not properly licensed to drive.
 5. The vehicle's occupants have been engaged in recent criminal activity.
- E. Stranded motorists should not be abandoned when exposed to hazardous conditions. Officers should consider traffic hazards, location, time of day, weather conditions and priority calls for service, when providing assistance to stranded motorists. Officers may, with the approval of their supervisor, transport stranded motorists to a location where assistance may be obtained.
- F. Officers shall render all practical assistance to motorists who are involved in emergency situations. **(CALEA 61.4.1)**
1. Officers encountering vehicle fires shall: Immediately advise the Communications Center of the location, type of vehicle, cargo (if applicable) and any other pertinent information; request that fire/rescue personnel be dispatched; and if possible, attempt to extinguish the fire.
 2. Officers encountering medical emergencies shall: determine the nature of the medical emergency; provide all pertinent information to the Communications Center; request EMS personnel when appropriate; and render first aid in accordance with the officers' level of training.
- G. Roadway and roadside hazards are contributing factors in many traffic collisions. In order to mitigate these factors, the Kinston Police Department charges police officers with the responsibility to report and, when possible, correct hazardous conditions. Conditions and situations considered roadway and roadside hazards include: **(CALEA 61.4.2)**
1. Debris in the roadway;
 2. Defects in the roadway;
 3. Lack of, or defects in, highway safety features;

4. Lack of, or improper, visually obstructed, or down or damaged mechanical traffic control devices and/or traffic control and informational signs;
 5. Lack of, or defective, roadway lighting systems;
 6. Vehicles abandoned or parked on or near the roadway; or,
 7. Any other situation or condition that may endanger, hamper or restrict the flow of traffic.
- H. The following guidelines shall be used to govern identifying, reporting and correcting hazardous road conditions. **(CALEA 61.4.2)**
1. An officer encountering a potential hazardous condition that can easily and safely be corrected should take the necessary action to correct the situation.
 2. When an officer determines that a hazardous condition requires immediate correction and is beyond the scope of the officer's abilities, the officer shall notify the Communication Center of the situation and request the appropriate resources or assistance. The officer shall then establish a "lane of safety" and provide traffic direction and control as necessary until the hazardous condition is corrected.
 3. When an officer determines that a potential hazardous condition exists, but does not require immediate correction, the officer shall notify the Communications Center of the nature and location of the potential hazard. The Communications Center shall notify the proper authorities of the condition as soon as feasible.
 4. If an officer encounters a situation and is unsure of the hazard potential, the on-duty shift supervisor shall make a determination as to the course of action.