



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS



538.05 ASSISTING STRANDED MOTORISTS 09-16-91

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for assisting stranded motorist.

POLICY

To assist motorists stranded on state highways, freeways, and surface streets within the city limits.

PROCEDURE

A. OBSERVATIONS

1. On-duty, uniformed officers in marked police vehicles who observe motorists parked on state highways, freeways, or surface streets within the city who appear to be having vehicle problems shall stop and inquire if assistance is needed.
2. Officers are to render all assistance necessary.
3. Officers should consider the age, sex, and physical capabilities of the motorists and the place and hour of the day when deciding to leave the motorist prior to the arrival of the requested aid. If in doubt, remain on the scene until assistance arrives.
4. Officers unable to stop are to notify Communications so appropriate action can be taken.
 - a. In the case of a stranded motorist on the freeway, Communications shall notify the California Highway Patrol (CHP) of the situation.
 - b. In the case of a stranded motorist on a surface street, another city unit shall be dispatched when possible.

B. GENERAL

While officers may, if necessary, push stalled vehicles to the side of the road in order to remove them from traffic, they shall not push-start vehicles or jump batteries to start the vehicle. Assistance may include, but is not limited to:

1. calling for a tow
2. notifying friends or relatives
3. transporting the motorist a short distance to a place or to a garage to seek help.