

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 022-004

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Traffic Services

Rescinds:

Title: Disabled Motorists

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for providing assistance to disabled motorists.

POLICY

The Hamden Police Department is committed to assisting disabled motorists to ensure their safety and remove disabled vehicles from the road.

Procedures

A. Disabled Motorist.

1. Upon discovery of, or being assigned to assist a disabled motorist, the officer shall:
 - a. Park his/her cruiser, with emergency lights activated, to protect the vehicle and its occupants.
 - b. Assess the situation.
 - c. Render first aid or summon further medical assistance if needed.
 - d. Request the fire department in case of vehicle fires and/or may extinguish the fire with available equipment.

B. Wrecker Service Calls.

1. Officers WILL NOT attempt to repair any vehicle. Professional assistance will be requested.
2. Disabled vehicles, requiring a service call such as gasoline, tire change or other repair, will be serviced by:
 - a. A wrecker requested by the owner.
 - b. A wrecker service from the rotation list.

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C. Removing Disabled Vehicles.

1. The owner or operator may arrange for the repair or removal of disabled vehicles legally parked in a safe position.
2. If there is no hazard to the public, the officer need not remain at the scene.
3. Vehicles that require towing because they are disabled and/or hazardously parked may be towed by:
 - a. Wrecker service requested by the owner.
 - b. Wrecker service from the rotation list.
4. Supervisors may authorize officers to transport stranded motorists to a local gas station, hotel or other place of safety.
5. On all calls where an officer requests a tow truck be dispatched to his/her location, a case incident report will be required.