



1-16 Auto Theft Unit

Related SOP(s):

[2-49 Inspection of Motor Vehicles](#)

[2-60 Preliminary and Follow-Up Criminal Investigations](#)

[2-88 Bait Car Program](#)

1-16-1 Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy is to outline guidelines for the Department's Auto Theft Unit in completing investigations related to auto thefts, the bait car program, operations for property crime reduction, wrecker services, and training for Department personnel and outside agencies as it relates to the aforementioned areas.

1-16-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to utilize the Auto Theft Unit to detect, identify, investigate, apprehend, and prosecute persons involved in auto thefts.

7 1-16-3 Rules and Responsibilities

A. Auto Theft Investigations include:

1. All auto theft cases where follow up investigation is needed;
2. All "chop shop" investigations;
3. All bait car activations and investigations;
4. Under-cover operations and surveillance;
5. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) inspections; and
 - a. The unit will assign New Mexico assigned VIN when applicable.
6. Yard inspections and/or investigations.

7 B. Wrecker Services



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GENERAL ORDERS

SOP 1-16 (Formerly 5-11)

Effective: 11/22/19 Review: 11/22/20 Replaces: 12/14/15

1. Personnel will enforce the provisions of the City of Albuquerque Wrecker Ordinance that regulates rotational wreckers.
2. Personnel will conduct yard inspections of the rotational wrecker quarterly as directed by the Auto Theft Sergeant.
3. Personnel will maintain a file of the tow yard inspection documenting findings and actions taken.
4. Personnel will check the vehicles that are towed by the participating wrecker companies through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and maintain the 72-hour logs.
5. Personnel will recover and remove vehicles from NCIC that are discovered stolen and towed by the rotational wreckers.

7 C. Auto Theft Call out Procedures

1. Field services officers will conduct a preliminary investigation to include interviews with all involved parties.
2. Field Services officers will determine if a follow-up investigation is needed. If it is determined a follow-up investigation is required, the Field Services officer will notify their supervisor.
3. The Field Services supervisor will contact the on-call Auto Theft detective and brief the detective of the incident.
4. The Auto Theft Detective will determine if the incident meets the call out criteria based on:
 - a. The complexity of the case
 - b. If a warrant is required
5. If there is a disagreement between the Field Services supervisor and the Auto Theft detective, the Auto Theft Sergeant will make the final determination for a call-out.

7 D. Auto Theft On Call

1. The Auto Theft Unit is on call at all times.



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2. The Auto Theft Sergeant will organize the on-call schedule.
- E. Auto Theft will conduct Auto Theft related training as directed by the unit supervisors.
- F. The Auto Theft Unit provides Auto Theft Prevention training and events to the community.