



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-44

Effective: 03/21/19 Review: 03/21/20 Replaces: 01/14/16

## 2-44 TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

### Related SOP(s):

2-48 Towing and Wrecker Services

### 2-44-1 Purpose

This policy provides officers and Police Service Aides (PSAs) with the guidelines to be used while providing traffic and roadway services.

### 2-44-2 Policy

Department policy is to ensure that appropriate action is taken in a safe and timely manner in all cases where the Department is asked to provide general or emergency assistance to motorists.

### 2-44-3 Procedures

#### 7 A. General Assistance to Motorists

1. Officers and Police Service Aides (PSAs) will reasonably attempt to provide assistance to motorists in need of mechanical assistance, such as providing jumper cables, if available. Officers and PSAs will not attempt to push-start vehicles.
2. Officers and PSAs will summon the on-call wrecker at the request of the motorist, after explaining that the motorist will be responsible for all towing charges.
3. Unless necessary to retrieve a child or an animal locked in a vehicle, officers and PSAs will not attempt to unlock vehicles using a "Slim Jim" or other unlocking devices. Officers and PSAs may summon a locksmith at the motorist's request, or call a third party who has access to an extra key for the vehicle.

#### 7 B. Stranded Motorists

1. When requested by a stranded motorist, officers and PSAs may transport the motorist to the nearest service station to obtain fuel. When workload conditions permit and when no undue delay is anticipated, the motorist may be returned to the vehicle.
2. Motorists requesting shelter services will be referred to the appropriate agency.

#### 7 C. Hazardous Highway/Roadway Conditions

1. Appropriate actions to be taken upon noticing or being advised of a traffic hazard:
  - a. The officer or PSA will contact the appropriate city department.



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- b. If warning barricades or lights are necessary, the officer or PSA will contact the appropriate agency or company to put warning barricades and/or lights in place.
  - i. If barricades or warning lights are necessary, the officer or PSA shall remain at the scene to alert drivers and to provide traffic direction until the condition has been corrected and/or the warning lights or barricades have been placed at the scene.
  - ii. Non-uniformed officers in unmarked cars, who notice a traffic hazard, will call for a uniformed officer or a PSA with a marked car to respond to the scene.

N/A

- c. Vehicles found parked or abandoned on or near the roadway will be handled as outlined in SOP – Towing and Wrecker Services.

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- d. Animals and/or livestock on a roadway
  - i. Officers or PSAs will engage emergency lights and use any means available, such as siren, horn, P.A. system, to ensure the animal vacates the roadway.
  - ii. If the animal does not leave the roadway, officers or PSAs will call or have Emergency Communications call animal control and/or the New Mexico Livestock Bureau (841-4000), if needed, to advise them of the situation.
  - iii. If animals or livestock are injured or deceased, animal control will be called to remove them from the roadway.
  - iv. Officers will not leave the scene until safe passage on the roadway is secured.

2. Roadway and roadside vehicle hazards

3. When a vehicle is stalled on the roadway, officers and PSAs will take these actions:

- a. If feasible, given traffic and weather conditions, position their vehicles to provide safety for the motorist.
- b. Engage emergency lights.
- c. Ensure removal of the vehicle from the roadway as soon as possible.

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D. Closure of Interstate Highways

- 1. The on-scene officer will notify Emergency Communications whenever an interstate highway is closed, and will advise the location of the closure, the reason for the closure, and the expected length of the closure, if the information is available.
- 2. Emergency Communications will notify the New Mexico State Police dispatch of the closure.



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E. Traffic Direction and Control

1. Circumstances may arise when officers will be required to provide traffic control and direct traffic to ensure safe and efficient movement of vehicles. These duties may be performed by either officers or PSAs.
2. During events that require the manual use of traffic control devices (traffic box), only officers and PSAs who have been trained and issued keys by traffic engineers will be assigned to work the control box.
3. All officers and PSAs conducting extended traffic direction and control shall wear their safety reflective vest or jacket at all times while engaged in such duties.

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