

241. TRAFFIC-RELATED ANCILLARY SERVICES



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

Effective Date: 01/07/92
No. of Pages: 2
Serial Number: 10-141
Authority: Chief Jay Henthorne

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines for officers performing traffic related services to the public.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to assist the public through the performance of traffic-related ancillary services. These services have an indirect effect on traffic flow and responses to citizen requests for assistance.

III. PROCEDURE

Officers are routinely contacted by citizens requesting assistance. When possible, all personnel should provide assistance within the following guidelines.

DISABLED VEHICLES

When officers discover or are called to respond to citizens whose vehicle has become disabled for a variety of reasons. Officers may assist motorists in the following ways:

- 1) Summoning assistance through dispatch (i.e. towing services, mechanical help, family member, etc.). When the motorist requests a towing service the officer should ask the motorist if a certain towing firm is preferred. If the motorist does not have a preference, the officer should request the City's contracted towing firm.
- 2) Pushing the vehicle out of a traffic lane using the squad's push bumpers. Vehicles should be moved the shortest distance necessary to clear the traffic lane.
- 3) Transporting the citizen to the nearest public telephone or to the citizen's residence if within the City of Richfield. Transporting the person outside the City limits is permitted with the duty supervisor's approval. In adverse weather conditions, citizens should be assisted in obtaining shelter.

When a motorist with a disabled vehicle is assisted by an officer, the motorist should be advised to move the vehicle as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Officers should provide emergency first aid and medical assistance to motorists and pedestrians as needed. When medical assistance is needed officers should request that Richfield Fire/Rescue be dispatched to the scene as well as an ambulance if necessary. Persons in need of emergency medical care should be transported by ambulance. Officers **shall not** escort civilian vehicles being used to transport injured or ill persons in medical emergencies.

HAZARDOUS ROADWAY CONDITIONS

Roadway and roadside hazards may contribute to traffic crashes or disrupt the smooth flow of traffic. When an officer becomes aware of hazardous conditions the officer should notify, through dispatch, the appropriate personnel to correct the hazard. Hazardous conditions include but are not limited to; nonfunctioning or malfunctioning traffic signals, missing or damaged roadway signs, debris in the roadway, and damage to the roadway.

By Order Of:



Chief of Police

