



TRAFFIC ASSISTANCE

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 07-01-07

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I. GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO MOTORISTS

A. Officers will assist motorists by:

- 1. Transporting them to a safe location.
- 2. Having family or friends respond to assist them.
- 3. Assisting in obtaining fuel, repairs, overnight lodging, or a tow truck.

B. If help is on the way and the motorist wishes to wait in his/her vehicle the officer will make periodic checks on the motorist. Officers will ensure that stranded motorists are not unduly exposed to hazardous situations.

C. When transporting stranded motorists, officers will give the dispatcher their starting and ending mileage, location and destination, and a brief physical description of the motorist.

D. Police Department vehicles will not be used to push or tow other vehicles, but may be used for jump starts.

II. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A. Upon discovery of a medical emergency, officers will request that emergency medical assistance be dispatched to the scene. After giving information such as the type and location of the emergency, condition of the patient(s), and all other pertinent information to the dispatcher, officers will render emergency medical assistance to the degree possible.

B. Officers will immediately advise Communications of vehicle fires giving the type of vehicle, location of fire, and cargo (if applicable). Dispatchers will make an immediate notification to the Fire Department. After notifying dispatchers of the incident, officers will attempt to suppress the fire to the extent permitted by their training and available equipment.

III. TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEFICIENCIES

A. If an officer observes an engineering deficiency that is hazardous or detrimental to public safety, the officer will promptly notify the appropriate agency, i.e., Traffic Engineering, State Highway Administration, etc., via the Communications Section. Deficiencies of a lesser nature will be reported, via inter-office correspondence, to the Traffic Safety Section for further analysis.

B. If an engineering deficiency is suspected of being a primary or contributing factor in an accident, all pertinent information will be promptly relayed to the Traffic Safety Section. Department members will submit all accident reports, inter-office correspondence and other documentation identifying engineering deficiencies in a timely manner.

IV. HAZARDOUS ROADWAY OR WEATHER CONDITIONS

A. Periodically officers will encounter a variety of hazardous highway, environmental, and roadside conditions. When a hazard has been identified, the officer will immediately inform the Communications Section and identify the assistance or special equipment required. The officer will protect the scene and bystanders, and direct traffic or take any other action necessary to correct the situation. Communications will notify the proper authority to have them take the appropriate action.

B. If the prevailing condition is expected to endure beyond a two (2) hour period and/or involves a commitment of multiple resources, the officer will notify the field supervisor.

V. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A. Immediately notify the Communications Section, giving the exact location, number of injured persons, type and number of vehicles involved, and type, number and characteristics of the hazardous materials (as indicated by the placards).

B. Make every effort to rescue injured or trapped persons and remove them from the accident/incident scene. This may be done only when:

1. The officer can do so without undue risk or exposure; and,
 2. The officer has specialized training/equipment for hazardous material incidents.
- C. Restrict access to the incident by establishing safety lines at a radius of at least 1500 feet.
- D. Evacuate nonessential personnel.
- E. Request assistance advising the Communications Section of the safest route to the accident.

VI. PROPONENT UNIT: Traffic Safety Section

VII. CANCELLATION: This directive cancels Article 19, Sections 19.8, 19.8.1, 19.8.2, 19.8.3, & 19.8.4.
Prior date: 05-01-94.