

- I. Purpose
- II. Policy
- III. General Principals and Procedures
- IV. Vehicle Escorts

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to establish policy and general principles and procedures with respect to traffic ancillary services.

II. Policy

The Division's policy is to provide motorists with assistance, information, directions, and to report road hazards in a timely manner.

III. General Principles and Procedures

A. Officers while on patrol will, whenever possible, assist stranded or disabled motorists by:

- 1. Providing information and directions.
- 2. Obtaining towing service at the driver's/owner's request.
- 3. Providing protection for roadway users stranded or disabled in hazardous locations or environments.

B. When requesting tow service, officers will protect the scene by setting up flares as necessary. Officers will ensure that assistance is requested in a timely fashion and that motorists are directed to or actually transported to a place of safety.

C. Officers will be alert to emergency situations in vehicles and should be prepared to provide first aid, fight fires and obtain Fire and Rescue assistance.

NOTE: Upon requesting Fire and Rescue service, officers will inform Communications of the exact nature and location of the emergency to ensure that fire suppression and emergency medical services are provided in a timely manner.

D. Roadway and roadside hazards are contributing factors in many traffic accidents. In order to mitigate these factors, officers will be alert to, and promptly report, hazardous conditions such as:

- 1. Debris in the roadway.
- 2. Defects in the roadway, or roadway safety features, i.e. stop signs.
- 3. Malfunctioning mechanical traffic control devices.
- 4. Other road hazards including vehicles parked or abandoned on or near the roadway.

E. For road hazards of an emergency nature, or those coming under the jurisdiction of Montgomery County Government, Communications will be notified of the exact nature and location of the problem and the appropriate department/agency will be immediately notified.

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- F. In addition to providing assistance, information, directions, and reporting hazards, the officer should provide to the public traffic safety educational materials when available.
- G. For handling parked, abandoned or stolen vehicles, officers will follow the procedures set forth in Division Directive, "Towing Motor Vehicles/Marine Vessels" regarding the removal and towing of vehicles. See related Division Directive, "Seizure of Conveyances."
1. These Directives explain the procedures and maintenance of records of all vehicles removed, stored or towed at the direction of the officer.
 2. The written record will include time, date, location, requesting officer, reason for removal/tow, charges pending, tow service, location of towed vehicle, and notification or attempted notification of the registered owner.
- IV. Vehicle Escorts
- A. Emergency Escorts - Emergency escorts will be made using marked police vehicles only. When conducting the escort, officers will activate emergency lights and siren prior to beginning the escort. Officers will exercise the same caution when conducting the escort as they would in responding to a call for service.
1. Ambulances and other emergency vehicles may be escorted in an emergency situation
 - a. When the operator of an ambulance or fire apparatus is unfamiliar with the route to the destination; or
 - b. When the emergency equipment of an ambulance or fire apparatus is inoperative.
 2. Privately-owned vehicles will not be given an emergency escort when an officer is confronted with an emergency medical situation in an automobile, he/she will offer to summon an ambulance and render first aid as needed.
- B. Non-Emergency Escorts
1. Officers may provide for the following types of formal escorts upon the authorization of the O.I.C. or the Watch Commander:
 - a. Public Officials
 - b. Dignitaries/VIPs
 - c. Oversized Vehicles
 - d. Hazardous or Unusual Cargo

2. Funeral escort requests will be limited to funerals of police officers, government officials, and the immediate family of police officers (spouses or others). Requests for all funeral escorts will be handled on a case-by-case basis and the final approval/disapproval will be at the discretion of the Chief or his/her designee.

**Approved Park Police Document
Signed Original on File**

End of Directive