

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

STRANDED MOTORISTS
SUBJECT

DATE: March 1, 2005

NO: T-8

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **Stranded Motorists**
Motorists, Stranded
Disabled Motorists

I. POLICY

Personnel of the Stockton Police Department will provide assistance to stranded or disabled motorists on the roadways of the city, unless they are enroute to or involved in a call of a critical nature.

II. LAW

A. Section 20018 of the California Vehicle Code states:

"Every law enforcement agency having traffic law enforcement responsibility as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 830.1 and in subdivision (a) of Section 830.2 of the Penal Code may develop, adopt, and implement a written policy for its officers to provide assistance to disabled motorists on highways within its primary jurisdiction. A copy of the policy, if adopted, shall be available to the public upon request.@"

III. PROCEDURE

A. Personnel will assist stranded or disabled motorists unless enroute to or involved in a call of a critical nature.

B. A motorist's request of a specific towing company or service, e.g., AAA, ALLSTATE, etc., for emergency road service (such as a breakdown or flat tire) will only be honored if the vehicle is off the roadway and poses no traffic hazard. If a vehicle is obstructing the roadway, or if the vehicle is a traffic hazard and cannot be moved to a safe location, the officer will request a no preference to Tow."

NOTE: Vehicle Code Section 22651 gives peace officers authority to remove vehicles which are blocking roadways or creating a traffic hazard. If a citizen objects to a police-ordered tow authorized by this section, the officer must complete a Motor Vehicle Report. Use of a claim check is not appropriate in these circumstances.