



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 227

GENERAL ORDERS

TRAFFIC ANCILLARY SERVICES

PURPOSE:

Traffic ancillary services are activities that have a direct effect on traffic flow or public safety. They include this agency's responses to citizen-generated requests for assistance.

**STRANDED OR
DISABLED
MOTORIST:**

When a deputy encounters a stranded or disabled motorist, he/she is to make every practical effort to obtain needed assistance. The following are areas that may fall within the scope of assistance that can be rendered:

1. Changing flat tire.
2. Calling for wrecker service at owner's request and at their expense of either their choice or a service from the rotation list.
3. Obtaining gasoline in an approved safety container. Gas is to be transported in the vehicle trunk and gas containers are to be empty when not assisting a motorist.
4. Transport motorist to the nearest service station.

Deputies are not to make mechanical repairs to disabled vehicles.

If a deputy enroute to a call-for-service observes a disabled motorist, Communications is to be notified of the motorist's location to assure assistance is dispatched. This is critical for motorists stranded in isolated or hazardous locations.

**ROADSIDE
EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE:**

When assistance rendered to a stranded or disabled motorist is of an emergency nature, the deputy is to contact Communications for assistance needed (fire, medical, or mechanical). The deputy is to stay with the motorist until assistance arrives or the emergency abates.

The deputy may render the following emergency assistance:

1. Medical first-aid.
2. Fire suppression.

The deputy is to act as a communications link to assure a rapid and timely response to the motorist.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation provides assistance to stranded motorists through its SCDOT Incident Response Program (formerly known as SHEP). Prepared to handle a variety of situations, SCDOT Incident Response vehicles make minor repairs to disabled vehicles, assist with traffic control and incident management, and provide first aid until EMS arrives. Communications can notify SCDOT and request an Incident Response vehicle for incidents occurring on interstate highways.

**ROADWAY/ ROADSIDE
HAZARDS:**

Roadway and roadside hazards are frequently contributing factors in traffic collisions. When a deputy identifies a hazard, he/she is to attempt to eliminate the hazard or report it to proper authorities for corrective action. Such hazards include:

1. Debris in roadway.
2. Defects in roadway.
3. Lack of or broken highway safety devices.
4. Lack of or broken traffic control devices.
5. Lack of roadway lighting system.
6. Other roadside hazards such as abandoned vehicles.

**KEYS LOCKED
IN VEHICLES:**

Deputies may be requested to assist in entering vehicles with the keys locked inside. This will only be done in emergency situations where exists a serious threat to life.

When calls of this nature are received, Communications determines:

1. Weather conditions (heat or cold).
2. If an immediate need exists due to other circumstances that entry must be gained.

The local fire department and/or EMS may be notified if medical or emergency assistance is necessary.

If unusual or emergency conditions do not exist, the citizen is to be advised to notify a locksmith or local garage.

**TOWING
VEHICLES:**

A Deputy may tow a vehicle when one of the following circumstances exists:

1. **South Carolina Code of Laws §56-5-5630** - Any vehicle abandoned on a right-of-way, road or highway for more than forty-eight (48) hours.
2. **South Carolina Code of Laws §56-5-2510** - An unattended vehicle parked on the roadway outside a business or residential district when it is practicable to leave the vehicle off the roadway.

An unobstructed width of the highway opposite a standing vehicle must be left for the free passage of other vehicles and clear view of the stopped vehicle must be available from a distance of two hundred feet in each direction upon the highway. This does not apply to disabled vehicles unavoidably and temporarily left in such a position.

3. **§South Carolina Code of Laws §56-5-2520** - Any vehicle unattended upon any bridge or causeway or in any tunnel where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic.
4. Any vehicle from which a deputy makes an arrest and there is no responsible party to assume possession of the vehicle.
5. Any recovered/stolen vehicle where the owner cannot appear in a reasonable time to take possession and after all other means to locate someone to take possession have been exhausted.
6. Any vehicle containing illegal liquor, illegal weapons, or a sufficient quantity of illegal drugs to qualify for seizure of the vehicle.
7. Any vehicle to be held for processing of evidence in the course of an investigation.
8. Any vehicle upon execution of a lawful court order.
9. Any abandoned or derelict motor vehicle after an attempt is made to contact the owner and allow him a reasonable opportunity to retrieve the vehicle.

§South Carolina Code of Laws §56-5-2535:

In all instances when a deputy tows a vehicle, a letter is to be mailed by the tow service to the registered owner notifying them that the vehicle has been taken into custody

Whenever a vehicle is towed, the **Vehicle Inventory and Impoundment form** is completed by the towing deputy and processed through normal administrative channels as a permanent record pursuant to General Order 207. Relevant vehicle description and towing agency is recorded in a vehicle tow log in Communications.

**TAGGING/TOWING
ABANDONED
VEHICLES:**

Tagging/towing procedures:

When a Deputy is tagging a vehicle that is abandoned on the right of way of any roadway, the Deputy will check the tag and/or VIN to assure it isn't on NCIC. If the check is clear, an orange abandoned vehicle tag shall be filled out in its entirety and placed on the back windshield of the vehicle.

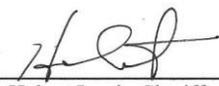
The call should be cleared Code 3. If the vehicle is still abandoned after forty-eight hours, the Deputy will check the tag and/or VIN again. If the check is clear, the Deputy should request the next tow service on rotation to respond and tow the vehicle. The Deputy shall fill out a Vehicle Impoundment sheet in its entirety and will hand write "No Code 5" at the top of the sheet. The original Vehicle Impoundment Sheet will be forwarded to the Traffic Unit, a copy of the tow sheet will **not** be sent to records. The Deputy will use the original case number and add comments in the CAD of the original date/time of the placing of the abandoned vehicle tag and the Deputy's name who placed the tag.

Note: Vehicles that are tagged as abandoned by the S.C. Highway Patrol will be handled by their agency.

NOTE – Refer to General Order 207 VEHICLE TOWING AND IMPOUNDMENT for guidelines pertaining to requesting a wrecker and completing a Vehicle Impoundment and Inventory Record.

**TRAFFIC
EDUCATION:**

Traffic safety and educational materials are made available to the public on the Sheriff's Office website.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff