



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 227

GENERAL ORDERS

TRAFFIC ANCILLARY SERVICES

PURPOSE:

Traffic ancillary services are activities that have a direct affect 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 a 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

NOTE: *Deputies are not to make mechanical repairs to disabled vehicles.*

If a deputy en-route 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. 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 a serious threat to life exists. 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) for entry

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 §56-5-5850:** 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.

When a deputy tows a vehicle, a letter may be mailed to the registered owner, if known, indicating:

1. The location of the vehicle
2. The description of the vehicle
3. The name of the deputy who towed the vehicle

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.

**TRAFFIC
EDUCATION:**

Traffic safety and educational materials are made available to the public through the Traffic Safety Program in public schools.

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff