

COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Subject: ASSISTING MOTORISTS

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I. Purpose

To establish guidelines to be followed when providing assistance to the motoring public.

II. General Provisions

- A. Officers will, at all times, assist and protect citizens and motorists that are in need upon any street or highway. At such times when an officer observes stranded motorists, he or she will stop and ascertain what assistance, if any is required. The officer may take any of the following actions:
1. If vehicle is disabled upon the roadway and can be pushed to a safe location off the roadway, the officer will help the person move the vehicle.
 2. Arrange for the motorist to have the vehicle towed either by owner's request or by the on-call towing service. (See S.O.P.# P160, X) [P160-Vehicle Impound.doc](#)
 3. Relay a message to a competent mechanic to have him repair the vehicle on the scene.
 4. Transport motorists to police department or to telephone.
 5. Relay the motorist's request to the dispatcher for telephone contact for assistance.
- B. Emergency assistance shall be provided to motorists by police personnel in any of the following manner:
1. First aid.
 2. Obtaining medical assistance.
 3. Fighting fires.
 4. Obtain fire service assistance.

All emergency requests will be radioed to the Covington Police Department for response.

- C. Escort services will be provided in the following instances:
1. Funerals - The dispatcher will ascertain the following:
 - a. Location of departure
 - b. Estimated time of departure
 - c. Destination
 2. Business Deposits - Upon request, escort will be approved for persons depositing large sums of cash. The escort officer will follow the depositor to the designated deposit facility and remain until the deposit is safely accomplished.
 3. Civilian vehicles traveling under emergency medical conditions will not be escorted by any official department vehicle. The vehicle will be stopped and its destination and nature of emergency determined. Appropriate jurisdiction and facilities will be notified.
 4. Public officials and dignitaries – Public officials of high office or other dignitaries will be provided police escort within the corporate limits upon the approval of the Chief of Police.

III. Road Hazards

- A. The prompt reporting of road hazards is of the utmost importance to the safety of the motoring public. All sworn personnel have an immediate duty to report any road hazards to the dispatcher. The following are considered hazards:
1. Roadway defects (debris, potholes, loose gravel, etc.).
 2. Defective, damaged, or inoperable traffic devices.
 3. Lack of or missing traffic control or information signs.
 4. Lack of or defective roadway lighting.
 5. Visually obstructed intersections.
 6. Lack of, damaged or missing roadway safety devices (reflectors, guard rails, etc.).
- B. The dispatcher is responsible for noting any of the above hazards to the proper agency for appropriate action.

This SOP supersedes any SOP previously issued.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

Stacey L. Cotton

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Chief of Police