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|  | <u>SUBJECT</u> CRASHES, VEHICLE STORAGE | | <u>NUMBER</u> 402/03 |
| | EFFECTIVE DATE: 08-24-09 | AMENDS: 07-29-08 | RESCINDS: |
| DISTRIBUTION: Administration, CID, Patrol, Communications, Clerical | | REFERENCES: CALEA 61.2.1 – 61.2.4 / IACLEA / TPCFA | |

.10 CRASHES

- A. In cases where a damaged vehicle impedes the normal flow of traffic or presents an obvious traffic hazard and the owner desires to contract a wrecker service other than the authorized wrecker service, the wrecker service must offer an estimated arrival time not exceeding twenty minutes. Where the vehicle owner's wrecker service cannot arrive in this time period, we are bound to notify the authorized wrecker service to clear the roadway at the owner's expense.
- B. Once any wrecker service is notified, that decision will be final unless the wrecker service notifies that they will be unable to make the location in which case another wrecker service will be notified.
- C. A vehicle owner who desires to move his vehicle to private property or to a legal parking position at the side of the roadway to await the wrecker of his choice will be allowed to do so if moving the vehicle does not present a hazard or cause damage to the road surface or cause damage to public or private property.
 - 1. Vehicles with minimal damage that are moved to the side of the roadway will be removed within a time period not to exceed one hour.
 - 2. Heavily damaged vehicles or vehicles leaking fluids will be towed within the twenty-minute time limit and not moved to public or private property.
 - 3. Owners of vehicles moved to the side of the roadway or private property will be advised those vehicles will be subject to impoundment under state statutes if abandoned.
- D. In all cases, it will be the responsibility of the responding wrecker service to clear the roadway of any and all debris.

.20 IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLES

- A. Crashes
 - 1. Street crashes will be towed to a location of the owner's choice if there is no hold placed on vehicle.

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2. If vehicle owner is undecided where to take the vehicle, then the authorized wrecker may tow the vehicle to its storage facility by arrangement with the owner.
3. No vehicle will be stored on Alamo Colleges property except Alamo Colleges vehicles, or stolen vehicles, or vehicles otherwise held for the recovery of evidence, etc.
4. If a vehicle owner is unable to choose a location for vehicle to be towed because of injury or unavailability, the vehicle will be impounded at the authorized wrecker's storage facility.

B. Traffic Hazards


1. If a vehicle is abandoned and presents an immediate **illegal** and **dangerous** hazard to traffic, the vehicle may be impounded at the authorized wrecker's storage facility by the authorized wrecker if:
 - a. Vehicle owner cannot be contacted
 - b. Vehicle owner does not make a reasonable effort to remove the hazard
 - c. Vehicle owner does not remove the hazard in a reasonable amount of time.
2. A ruling by a Supervisor is preferable, when possible, before impounding traffic hazards.

C. Stolen Vehicles

1. If the vehicle is to be held for recovery of evidence, it will be stored at the Alamo Colleges Police Department authorized storage lot and towed by an authorized wrecker.
2. If vehicle is not to be held for the above, it will be towed and impounded at the authorized wrecker's storage facility.

D. Prisoners' Vehicles

1. If not to be held for the preservation and/or collection of evidence, all prisoners' vehicles will be impounded at the authorized wrecker's storage facility unless, according to Policy,

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the vehicle may legally be released to the owner or a party of the owner's choice without delaying or jeopardizing the arrest.

2. If there is a choice of action to be taken, a ruling by a Supervisor is to be made when possible.

.30 TOWING AND IMPOUNDMENT PROCEDURE

- A. In every case, a thorough inventory will be conducted and a list of items recorded on the vehicle impoundment card.
 1. Property other than evidence or contraband will be placed in the trunk of the vehicle to be impounded.
 2. Prisoners' personal items of value, i.e. wallets, jewelry, keys, legal knives, will be taken to the jail with the prisoner and turned over to the Jailer.
 3. Officers will not remove mounted items such as stereo components, C.B. radios, etc. for the purposes of safekeeping.
- B. The ignition key and door key (if different) will be given to the wrecker driver for all vehicles to be impounded. All other keys will be placed with the prisoner's personal property and taken to the jail with him.
- C. A vehicle impoundment card will be completed on all vehicles impounded for any reason.
 1. A wrecker receipt will be obtained for all impounded vehicles and attached to the vehicle inventory card.

- .40** All expenses for the towing and impoundment of vehicles will be at the owner's expense with the exception of District vehicles and certain relocations of traffic hazards approved by a Supervisor.