

Towing and Impounding Vehicles



To help return the streets and public property to pre-storm conditions, vehicles may be towed and impounded in order to complete street repairs, cleaning, debris removal and other necessities.

HAZARD VEHICLES TOWING PROCEDURES

When a vehicle is creating an immediate hazard on a roadway or on public property, the vehicle will have to be impounded per applicable law. Some examples of a hazard vehicle include (but are not limited to):

- A vehicle stuck in a storm channel inhibiting normal operation of that channel;
- Vehicles on the street stacked on top of each other;
- Vehicles blocking lanes of traffic.

The City will do everything in its power to attempt to contact the registered owner of the vehicle (assuming it is safe to do so) prior to impounding it to give them an opportunity to remove it on their own, or work with the City on a private tow. However, because the vehicle is presenting a hazard, the registered owner must be able to work in an immediate timeframe to take possession and remove the vehicle. If that is not possible, the City must impound the vehicle.

NON-HAZARD VEHICLE TOWING PROCEDURES

The procedure below will be used when streets need to be cleared for necessary work to be completed.

1. At least 24-hour advance notice will be posted on the street in accordance with applicable laws.
2. Personnel will go door to door in the affected blocks to attempt to notify community members of the pending work to be done.
3. At the time the street work is to be completed, and if any vehicles are left that require an impound, officers will first complete a records check on the vehicle. If no other laws are being broken preventing the officer from releasing the vehicle, the officer will first attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle to gain compliance on moving the vehicle.
4. If the registered owner cannot get the vehicle moved voluntarily in a reasonable amount of time, the officer will proceed with the impound under applicable law.

HELP WITH TOWING

Tow/Impound/Storage fees for flood-related impounds in the two designated zones will be waived by the City for up to 30 days. If interested in this service. **Registered owners should contact SDPD Tow Administration at 858-495-7830.**

Visit the City of San Diego's Storm Response and Recovery web page, which is regularly updated with helpful information: sandiego.gov/storm.

