

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURE**

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 14, 2017  
**NUMBER:** 7.05 – TRAFFIC  
**SUBJECT:** ASSISTING STRANDED MOTORISTS  
**RELATED POLICY:** 7.05  
**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** TRAFFIC  
**NEW PROCEDURE:**   
**PROCEDURAL CHANGE:**  **NO CHANGES**  
**SUPERSEDES:** DP 7.05 – MAY 17, 2013

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**I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for providing assistance to stranded motorists on freeways and surface streets.

**II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department.

**III. BACKGROUND**

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has primary jurisdiction on freeways. However, San Diego police officers are responsible for handling incidents requiring immediate attention. In the interest of public safety, officers will provide assistance to stranded motorists.

**IV. PROCEDURES**

A. Freeways

1. Officers shall check and render appropriate assistance to occupied vehicles stopped on the freeway. Safety of the occupants will be the primary consideration when determining the type of assistance to be rendered.

2. Motorists situated close to an emergency call box may not require assistance during the daytime. Transportation to a call box (or telephone) shall be provided in inclement weather and during nighttime hours. Vehicles occupied by lone females, and those with children, will be given particular consideration and attention. Officers are reminded to utilize appropriate child restraint seats, in the proper manner, when transporting children eight years of age and under, or children who weigh less than 80 pounds.
3. If an officer observes an occupied vehicle stopped on the freeway and is unable to stop and offer assistance, due to legitimate circumstances, Communications Division will be notified of the description and the exact location of the vehicle. Communications Division will promptly notify the CHP.

B. Surface streets

The time of day, location, weather and access will be considered when determining assistance needs of motorists stranded on City surface streets.

V. **GENERAL**

Officers are not authorized to "jump start" private vehicles using cables and a City-owned vehicle as damage can be caused to vehicle electrical and computer systems. Officers driving a police vehicle with push bumpers are authorized to push disabled vehicles off the roadway that are on a public highway or roadway that cause, or are likely to cause, a traffic obstruction or hazard. Officers must adhere to those procedures described in Training Bulletin 05-01, "Using Push Bumpers on Police Vehicles."