DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Assistance to Motorists
Policy and Procedure 2.24-C

DEPARTMENT MANUAL

Index as:
Disabled Vehicles
Assistance to Motorists
Safety Vests

I. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Vehicle Code section 20018 provides that all law enforcement agencies having responsibility for traffic enforcement may develop and adopt a written policy to provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within their primary jurisdiction.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Officer Responsibility

1. When an on-duty officer observes a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the officer should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If that officer is assigned to a call of higher priority, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another available officer to respond for assistance as soon as practical.

2. Non-sworn personnel may, at their discretion, provide assistance to disabled motorists. Non-sworn personnel who observe disabled motorists and do not stop to render assistance should notify dispatch of the vehicle location so that an officer can be assigned to respond.

B. Extent of Assistance

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by police personnel will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of departmental resources and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

C. Mechanical Repairs

Members shall not make mechanical repairs to a private vehicle. The use of push bumpers to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

D. Safety Equipment

1. Whenever any member engages in non-enforcement activities in close proximity to a Federal-Aid Highway, the member shall wear a safety vest which meets ANSI Performance Class 2 or 3 specifications regardless of the time of day. Activities included in non-enforcement activities include the investigation of a vehicle collision, performing traffic control duties, facilitating a lane closure, clearing obstructions from the roadway, assisting a stranded motorist, and engaged in duties related to disasters. Enforcement activities are exempt from this requirement.
2. For the purpose of this policy, Federal-Aid Highways are defined as those roadways where Traffic and Engineering Surveys are conducted.

Darren Pytel
Police Chief

Created:
7/00
Reviewed
1/01, 1/02, 6/06, 04/08, 11/11, 06/17, 12/17, 5/19
Revised
04/10 safety vest required