

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SECTION: 10 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: 1009 WRECKER SERVICES

EFFECTIVE: 01/01/2015

1. **PURPOSE.** To provide a guideline for officers when dealing with vehicles that need to be towed or stored pursuant to an accident or investigation.

2. **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS.**
 - A. Requests for wrecker service by any member acting in an official capacity shall be restricted to the wrecker on call in accordance with the wrecker rotation schedule maintained in the Communications Center unless the owner or operator of a vehicle to be towed requests a wrecker from a specific company.

 - B. The owner/operator of a vehicle has the right to select a wrecker of his choice or to release his vehicle to a qualified driver present at the scene or legally park the car unless:
 1. He is physically or mentally incapable of doing so.
 2. The vehicle is needed as evidence of a crime.

 - C. Under no circumstances will any member recommend or suggest that the owner or operator of a vehicle to be towed, utilize a specific wrecker company or tow truck operator.

 - D. The officer who authorizes the towing of a vehicle will complete a PPD Storage Report, in its entirety, in addition to the offense report. A storage report does not have to be filed on vehicles towed as a result of a routine traffic accident whereby the location of the towed vehicle is recorded on the Uniform Traffic Accident Report. For purposes of this policy, a routine traffic accident is one in which there are no other violations involved other than moving traffic violations. When a vehicle is towed for a reason other than a routine accident, the offense report must be written to describe the incident precipitating the tow-in as well as the following information:
 1. Reason for towing.
 2. If a hold has been placed on a vehicle, which officer placed the hold and for what reasons.

 - E. Wreckers will be canceled only under extreme circumstances including but not limited to the following:

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1. Wrecker does not arrive within 30 minutes after being requested.
 2. The wrecker is not properly equipped or is too small for the job.
- F. Vehicles involved in accidents will be towed when:
1. The driver/owner has been taken from the scene due to injuries or illness and the vehicle cannot be released to a qualified driver nor legally parked.
 2. The vehicle cannot be driven from the scene because of damage, or it is inoperable.
 3. The driver/owner requests a wrecker.
 4. The vehicle is needed for evidence of a crime.
 5. The driver has been arrested for DWI, Driving Under Revocation, etc., and the vehicle cannot be released to a qualified driver.
 6. If the owner of a recovered stolen vehicle cannot be contacted.
- G. If an arrested owner/operator wishes the vehicle left at the scene subject to approval of the officer and field supervisor, the location of the vehicle will be included in the offense report. It will be the responsibility of the officer to complete a storage report and have the owner/operator sign the report at the appropriate portion of the report. The vehicle keys will be placed in the driver's personal property.
- H. Vehicles belonging to victims of crime or those used in the commission of a crime which need to be processed for evidentiary purposes:
1. Shall be processed at the scene whenever practical or as is determined by the Crime Scene personnel.
 2. Shall be towed by a wrecker company that meets specific security requirements.

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- I. Upon observing a possible abandoned vehicle:
 1. Make stolen vehicle inquiry.
 2. Determine if vehicle is violating parking restrictions.
 3. If the vehicle is not obstructing traffic a two day (48 hour) abandoned vehicle notice will be attached to a conspicuous glass surface area of the vehicle for future determination of the traffic ordinances.
 - A. Obtain a CFS (Call for Service) number.
 4. Obtain a license registration and attempt to contact the owner to advise him of the situation.
 5. After the 2 days (48 hours) have elapsed, the vehicle shall be towed.

By order of

Darrell Basco
Chief of Police