

Traffic Assistance

Index Code: 1908

Effective Date: 11/01/02 (Revised 01/01/10)

I. Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide deputies with guidelines for assisting motorists and helping maintain a safe highway environment.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Office of the Sheriff to assist motorists and other highway users, and help maintain a safe highway environment.

III. General Assistance

A. Deputies will assist motorists and other highway users by:

1. Assisting in obtaining fuel, lodging, repairs or a tow truck.
2. Contacting family members or friends to assist them.
3. Transporting them to a safe location.

B. If help is on the way, and the motorist wishes to wait with their vehicle, the deputy may leave after ensuring that the stranded motorist is not unduly exposed to hazardous situations. The deputy will then attempt to make periodic checks on the motorist to ensure that help was received.

C. When transporting stranded motorists, deputies will provide the Department of Emergency Services with their starting and ending mileage, location, and destination.

D. Agency vehicles will not be used to push, tow or jump start other vehicles (unless a booster pack is available).

IV. Emergency Assistance

A. In the event of a medical emergency, deputies will request that emergency medical assistance be dispatched to the scene. After providing information such as the type and location of emergency, condition of the patient(s), and all other pertinent information to the dispatcher, deputies will render emergency medical assistance to the degree possible.

B. In the event of a vehicle fire, deputies will immediately advise the Department of Emergency Services of the type of vehicle(s) involved, location of fire, and type of cargo if applicable. After notification deputies will attempt to suppress the fire to the extent permitted by their training and available equipment.

V. Traffic Engineering Deficiencies

A. If a deputy observes an engineering deficiency that may be hazardous or detrimental to public safety, the deputy will promptly notify the appropriate agency via the Department of Emergency Services.

B. If an engineering deficiency is suspected of being a primary or contributing factor in a motor vehicle collision, all pertinent information will be documented on the M.A.A.R.S. form.

VI. Hazardous Highway or Weather Conditions

A. When encountering hazardous highway conditions (i.e., debris, holes, damaged signs, etc.) or hazardous weather conditions (i.e., heavy fog, rain, snow, etc.) the deputy will immediately notify the Department of Emergency Services and request any necessary assistance and/or equipment to correct the situation. Until the situation is corrected, the deputy will take whatever action is necessary and within their means to secure the scene, protect the public and direct traffic away from the hazard.

B. If the prevailing condition is expected to endure for an extended period of time, and/or involves a commitment of multiple resources, the deputy will notify his/her supervisor of the situation.

VII. Hazardous Materials

A. If a deputy encounters a situation that involves hazardous materials, the deputy will immediately notify the Department of Emergency Services and provide the exact

location, number and extent of injuries if applicable, type and number of vehicles involved, and the type, number, and characteristics of the hazardous materials as indicated by the manifest or observable placards.

B. The deputy will make a reasonable effort to rescue injured or trapped persons and remove them from the hazard if:

1. The deputy can do so without undue risk or exposure.
2. The deputy has available the necessary equipment and training.

C. Restrict access to the area by establishing safety lines of at least 1500 feet.

D. Evacuate nonessential personnel.

E. Request any necessary assistance via the Department of Emergency Services, advising the safest route to the scene in order to avoid exposure.

VIII. CALEA Reference: 61.3.2d

IX. Proponent Unit: Field Operations Division

X. Cancellation: This directive cancels Index Code 1908 dated 11/01/02.

Sheriff R. Gery Hofmann III