

## Disabled Vehicles

### 505.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for officers who provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within the primary jurisdiction of the Plymouth Township Police Department.

### 505.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Plymouth Township Police Department to assist motorists with disabled vehicles until those vehicles are safely removed from the roadway. Officers should take appropriate action to mitigate potential problems when a vehicle constitutes a traffic hazard or the safety of the motorist is a concern.

### 505.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

When an on-duty officer of this department sees a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the officer should make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If this is not reasonably possible, the dispatcher should be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher should then assign another officer to respond as soon as practicable.

### 505.4 ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by officers will be contingent on priority calls for service, the time of day, the location, the availability of department resources, the vulnerability of the disabled motorist and the ability to quickly mitigate the risk.

#### 505.4.1 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Officers shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle. The use of push bumpers, with consent of the owner, to relocate vehicles to a position of safety is not considered a mechanical repair.

#### 505.4.2 RELOCATION OF DISABLED VEHICLES

The relocation of disabled vehicles by an officer of this department may be facilitated by the officer blocking the roadway to allow the owner to relocate the vehicle. In the event the vehicle cannot be moved to a second location, towing should be considered. Pushing or pulling a vehicle should be considered a last resort and should only occur with the owner's consent, when the conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to reduce a hazard presented by the disabled vehicle, and the vehicle is properly equipped for this purpose.

#### 505.4.3 RELOCATION OF MOTORISTS

The relocation of a motorist with a disabled vehicle should only occur with the person's consent and should be suggested when conditions reasonably indicate that immediate movement is necessary to mitigate a potential hazard. The officer may stay with the motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.