

Effective: 9/22/2005 ADDITION TO THE MANUAL

2-50 RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS (Minor or Non-Injury)

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department to respond to and investigate traffic accidents, while limiting the impact on the motoring public. This is accomplished through rapid assessment of injury and vehicles and the immediate re-opening of lanes of traffic.

RULES:

2-50-1 REPORTED OR OBSERVED TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A. Communications Operators will:

1. Simultaneously dispatch the on-call tow service (if the vehicles are reported to be non-operational) at the time an officer (or PSA) is dispatched.
2. Instruct the caller to drive the vehicle off the roadway to the nearest public parking lot if the vehicles are operational.
 - In the case of a freeway collision, drivers should be instructed to drive the vehicles to a public parking lot closest to the nearest off ramp.
3. Ask the caller to provide detailed information about the vehicles involved.
4. Notify the News Alert System.
5. Notify the 311 Call Center, about major traffic accident locations and potential traffic delays.

B. First Responding Officer or PSA will:

1. Immediately determine the existence of injuries.
2. Determine whether or not the affected vehicles are operational.
3. Note, sketch, or take photographs of the positioning of the vehicles(s) prior to removal.

C. It is the first responding officer's responsibility to ensure the safety of the operator and vehicle from further damage.

2-50-2 INJURIES

If injuries are non-existent, or the extent of injury are minor, the first responding officer will immediately remove the vehicles(s) from the roadway only after the set criteria in sub-section 2-50-1 B. have been met.

ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
* PROCEDURAL ORDERS*

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2-50-3 PROPER REMOVAL OF THE VEHICLE

- A. If the vehicle(s) is operational, the operator or officer should drive the vehicle from the roadway and, if possible, off the freeway to a public parking lot.
- B. If the vehicle can roll, but cannot safely start, the first responding officer will utilize the department issued push bumper to remove the vehicle from the roadway.
- C. If the vehicles(s) cannot be removed safely, the first responding officer will make every effort to maintain the safe and constant flow of traffic around the scene.
- D. City vehicles will not be moved.

2-50-4 GENERAL TRAFFIC CONTROL

- A. In the absence of signal control or barricades, officers will utilize issued helmets, traffic vests and flashlights to manually direct traffic around the scene.
- B. When available, a Public Service Aide (PSA) will be dispatched to the accident scene to assist with traffic control.