2-88  BAIT CAR PROGRAM

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)
   2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle

B. Form(s)
   None

C. Other Resource(s)
   None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)
   None

2-88-1  Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the operating requirements for the use of the Bait Car Program, which makes use of a specially-equipped car, or bait car, that can be placed in an area with a statistically heightened risk of auto theft.

2-88-2  Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to proactively identify and apprehend in-progress auto theft offenders. In doing so, the Department seeks to increase the number of arrests and prosecutions for this offense, thereby deterring future offenders and reducing the number of stolen vehicles. It is also the policy to perform this proactive and tactical mission in a safe and professional manner.

2-88-3  Definitions

A. 27-7 Edward (Emergency Alarm-BAIT Activation)

   Ten Code used to describe a bait car activation or theft.

B. Activity and Location Logs

   A log that include the dates, times, locations, conditions, and duration of all bait car deployments. Activity and location logs are retained for three (3) years.

C. Bait Car
An electronically equipped vehicle with a silent alarm, a global positioning system (GPS), global mapping software, and audio/video recording equipment. The vehicle is also equipped with a disabling feature that permits the engine to be turned off from a remote location and the doors and windows locked.

D. Bait Car Coordinator

The Auto Theft Unit supervisor or their designee who supervises the Bair Car Program, including record keeping, bait car deployment, and filings.

E. Global Positioning System (GPS)

An electronic tracking system that continually monitors the bait car location, direction of travel, speed, and operating condition.

E. Long-Term Bait Car Deployment

A bait car deployment where the car is unattended and without surveillance for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or more.

F. Short-Term Bait Car Deployment

A bait car deployment where sworn personnel keep visual surveillance on the car for a period less than twenty-four (24) hours.

**2-88-4 Procedures**

A. Deployment

1. The Bait Car Coordinator has the authority to deploy the bait car. Deployment is based on an objectively heightened risk of theft in an area.
   
   a. The Bait Car Coordinator shall be the Auto Theft Sergeant or their designee.
   
   b. The Bait Car Coordinator shall maintain a permanent record of the bait car history.
   
2. Department personnel shall not operate or deploy the bait car without specific authorization from the Bait Car Coordinator.

3. Department personnel who desire deployment of the bait car in a specific area may direct requests to the Bait Car Coordinator.

B. Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

1. The ECC supervisor shall:
a. Contact the on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor, notify them of the activation, and create a call for service (27-7E) within the area command;
   i. ECC and responding personnel shall switch their radio channel to “bait car” under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.

2. ECC personnel shall:
   a. Be responsible for monitoring the bait car during a long-term bait car deployment or at the request of the Bait Car Coordinator;
   b. Be trained to interpret any alarms or activation of the bait car system;
   c. Identify the bait car’s physical location, car description, license plate, and where applicable, the speed and direction of travel when the activation is valid;
   d. Dispatch a minimum of two (2) officers to the vehicle location and, if the bait car is mobile, provide location updates to the responding personnel;
   e. Have responding sworn personnel notify the ECC Dispatcher when they have visual contact of the vehicle;
   f. Have responding sworn personnel advise when it is safe to perform a high-risk stop on the vehicle; and
   g. Remotely disable the vehicle ignition at the request of sworn personnel or the Auto Theft Unit supervisor.

C. Responding sworn personnel shall:

   1. Exercise appropriate caution and comply with the provisions of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP);
      a. Responding personnel shall switch their radio channel to “bait car” under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.

   2. Inform the ECC Dispatcher that they have made first visual contact of the bait car, state the location, and whether the vehicle is occupied;

   3. Assess whether disabling the vehicle is appropriate at the time, if the bait car is occupied;

   4. Advise whether the immediate disabling of the bait car would be unsafe;
      a. Sworn personnel shall follow the vehicle at a safe distance until it is safe to disable the bait car.

   5. Notify the ECC Dispatcher if a request is made to disable the bait car ignition;

   6. Visually confirm that the vehicle disabling command has been received by noting that the auxiliary break light is flashing;
7. Once verified, initiate a high-risk traffic stop by using their emergency equipment and notifying the ECC Dispatcher of their stopping location; and

8. Complete a Supplemental Report to document their involvement.

D. The Responding Auto Theft Unit Detective shall:

1. Respond to the original bait car activation;

2. Assume case responsibility for all bait car investigations;
   a. The responding Auto Theft Unit Detective shall switch their radio channel to "bait car" under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.

3. Attempt to get a visual of the vehicle and involved individuals prior to the high-risk stop. This information is relayed to the ECC supervisor;

4. Coordinate with Field Service Bureau (FSB) personnel and the Auto Theft Unit Supervisor to create an apprehension plan;

5. Assume case responsibility and complete a Uniform Incident Report, criminal complaint, and any other necessary arresting documentation; and

6. Coordinate with the Bait Car Technician to recover the bait car from the scene.

E. Pursuits and Location of Bait Cars

1. If sworn personnel are directed to follow a mobile bait car and the individual is driving in an erratic or reckless manner that places the public in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death, sworn personnel shall immediately notify the on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor and shall request to disable the vehicle.

2. At no time shall sworn personnel engage in a vehicle pursuit with a bait car (refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties).

3. In the event the bait car is not located by GPS and cannot be physically located, the on-call Auto Theft Unit Detective shall immediately complete a stolen vehicle report and enter the vehicle into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as stolen. The on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor shall then be notified.

F. Bait Car and Evidence Recovery

1. Following each verified Emergency Alarm-BAIT Activation (27-7 Edward) incident, sworn personnel shall move the bait car to a location determined by the Bait Car
Coordinator. To maintain the confidentiality of the bait car program and vehicle, only plain-clothes sworn personnel shall drive the vehicle.

2. The on-call Auto Theft Unit Detective or their designee shall be responsible for collecting and tagging evidence obtained from the vehicle.

G. Confidentiality of Bait Cars

1. The bait car program is considered an undercover operation. Accordingly, all Department personnel shall exercise caution to protect the confidentiality of the program.

2. Department personnel shall never reveal the bait car description, location of deployment, or information that may compromise the vehicle’s undercover status. (refer to SOP Personnel Code of Conduct for sanction classifications and additional duties).

H. Short-Term Bait Car Deployment

1. All short-term bait car deployments shall be monitored by the Auto Theft Unit Sergeant or their designee.

2. The Auto Theft Unit Sergeant or their designee shall notify the ECC of the short-term deployment.
2-88  _______ BAIT CAR PROGRAM

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

1-16    Auto Theft Unit (Formerly 5-11)
2-45    Pursuit by Motor Vehicle
2-86    Investigation of Property Crimes

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-88-1  _______ Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the operating guidelines and requirements for the use of the Bait Car Program, which makes use of a specially-equipped vehicle, or (bait car,) that can be placed in an area with a statistically heightened risk of auto theft.

2-88-2  _______ Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to proactively identify and apprehend in-progress auto theft offenders. In doing so, the Department seeks to increase the number of arrests and prosecutions for this offense, thereby deterring future offenders and reducing the number of stolen vehicles. It is also the policy to perform this proactive and tactical mission in a safe and professional manner. Therefore, all personnel responding to bait car activations shall exercise appropriate caution and shall comply with the provisions of this SOP.

N/A 2-88-3  _______ Definitions

A. 27-7 Edward (Emergency Alarm-BAIT Activation)

Ten -c-Code used to describe a bait car activation or theft.
B. Activity and Location Logs

The Bait Car Coordinator shall maintain a permanent record of the bait vehicle history. A log that include the dates, times, locations, conditions, and duration of all vehicle bait car deployments. Activity and location These logs are retained for three (3) years.

A.C. Bait Car

An electronically equipped vehicle with a silent alarm, a global positioning system (GPS), global mapping software, and audio/video recording equipment. The vehicle is also equipped with a disabling feature that permits the engine to be turned off from a remote location and the doors and windows locked.

B. Bait Car Coordinator

The Auto Theft Unit supervisor or their designee who will be the Auto Theft Sergeant or their designee. The coordinator will be assigned to supervises the Bait Car Program, including record keeping, vehicle bait car deployment, and filings.

C.D. Activity and Location Logs

The coordinator shall maintain a permanent record of the bait vehicle history. This log shall include the dates, times, locations, conditions, and duration of all vehicle deployments.

D. E. Global Positioning System (GPS)

An electronic tracking system that continually monitors the bait vehicle car location, direction of travel, speed, and operating condition.

E. Long-Term Bait Vehicle Car Deployment

A bait car deployment where the vehicle car is left unattended and without surveillance for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or more.

F. Short-Term Bait Vehicle Car Deployment

A bait car deployment where sworn personnel keep visual surveillance on the vehicle car for a period less than twenty-four (24) hours. This deployment will not exceed a 24-hour period.
F. Long Term Bait Vehicle Deployment

A bait car deployment where it will be left unattended and without surveillance for a period of 24 hours or more.

G. 27-7 Edward (Emergency Alarm-BAIT Activation)

Ten code used to describe a bait car activation or theft.
A. The title of defined word or unit.

Describe terminology used.

B. The title of defined word or unit.

Describe terminology used.

2-88-4 Procedures

1. Deployment

A. 

2.

1. The Bait Car Coordinator has the authority to deploy the bait vehicle. Deployment is based rests with the bait car coordinator and is the decision is based on an objectively heightened risk of theft in an area.

   a. The Bait Car Coordinator shall be the Auto Theft Sergeant or their designee.
   b. The Bait Car Coordinator shall maintain a permanent record of the bait vehicle history.

2. Department personnel shall not operate or deploy the bait car without specific authorization from the Bait Car Coordinator.

3. Department Sworn personnel who desire deployment of the vehicle bait car in a specific area may direct requests to the Bait Car Coordinator.

B. Department Emergency Communications Center (ECC)

1. The Emergency Communication Center (ECC) supervisor shall:

   a. Contact the on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor, and notify them of the activation, and create a call for service (27-7E) within the area command;
   i. ECC and responding personnel shall switch their radio channel to “Bait car” under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.
2. ECC Personnel shall:
   a. Be responsible for monitoring the bait car during a long-term bait vehicle deployment or at the request of the bait car coordinator.

   b. The Emergency Communication Center (ECC) shall be responsible for monitoring the bait car. ECC personnel shall be trained to interpret any alarms or activation of the bait vehicle system. When the ECC concludes that the activation is valid, they shall identify the bait car’s physical location, vehicle description, license plate, and where applicable, the speed and direction of travel when the activation is valid.

   c. ECC Personnel shall:
      a. The ECC supervisor shall contact the on-call Auto theft supervisor, and notify them of the activation. Create a call for service (27-7E) within the area command. Broadcast an Emergency Alarm BAIT Activation (27-7E). Should the bait vehicle appear to be moving from one area command to another, the dispatcher may make an all-area command broadcast.
      b. ECC and responding personnel shall switch their radio channel to “Bait car” under the APD-Spec 1 talk group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this air, regardless of which area command the activation originated. If the bait vehicle is leaving the Albuquerque area, have the dispatcher contact the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) or New Mexico State Police (NMSP) to arrange for a coordinated response.
      c. Dispatch a minimum of two (2) units sworn personnel to the vehicle location and, if the bait car is mobile, provide location updates to the responding units.
      d. Notify the on-duty auto theft supervisor or area command supervisor and the Bait Car Coordinator.
      e. Have responding units swear personnel advise the ECC and notify the ECC Dispatcher when they have visual contact with the vehicle, they shall advise dispatch.
      f. Have responding sworn personnel advise when it is safe to perform a high-risk stop on the vehicle; and
      g. The operator shall remotely disable the vehicle and lock the doors at the request of the officers.
Upon request from sworn personnel, the operator shall remotely unlock the doors to allow personnel to conduct a high-risk stop.

C. Responding sworn personnel shall:

1. Therefore, all personnel responding to bait car activations shall exercise appropriate caution and shall comply with the provisions of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):

a. Responding personnel shall switch their radio channel to "Bait Car" under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.

2.2. Sworn personnel shall who first make visual contact with the bait vehicle upon bait car activation the first responding sworn personnel to make visual contact with the bait vehicle shall inform the ECC Dispatcher that they have made first visual contact of the bait car, and state of the location, and shall state whether the vehicle is occupied.

2.3. Sworn personnel shall assess whether disabling the vehicle is appropriate at the time. If the vehicle is occupied, sworn personnel shall assess if disabling the vehicle is appropriate at the time.

4. Advise if whether sworn personnel concludes that the immediate disabling of the vehicle would be unsafe:

3.2. If determined to be unsafe, sworn personnel shall follow the vehicle at a safe distance until it is such time that safe to disable the vehicle could occur.

4.5. When ready to disable the vehicle, sworn personnel shall notify the ECC Dispatcher if a request is made to disable the vehicle and lock the doors and windows when ready to disable the vehicle.

6. Responding officers shall visually confirm that the vehicle disabling command has been received by noting that the auxiliary break light is flashing.

7. Once verified, officers shall initiate a high-risk traffic stop by using After it becomes apparent that the vehicle has lost power, sworn personnel shall activate their emergency equipment and advise notifying the ECC Dispatcher of their stopping location and affect a high-risk stop, after it becomes apparent that the vehicle has lost power and
5. Sworn personnel shall advise the ECC operator Dispatcher to unlock the doors and complete the stop.

Responding units will then wait for the on-call Auto Theft Detective to arrive on scene.

6. The Auto Theft Unit shall assume case responsibility for all bait vehicle investigations.

8. If the vehicle was tampered with but not moved, the officer shall notify the bait car coordinator. Complete a Supplemental Report to document their involvement.

D. The Responding Auto Theft Unit Detective shall:

1. The on-call Auto Theft Detective shall respond to the original bait car activation.

2. The Auto Theft Unit shall assume case responsibility for all bait vehicle investigations:

   a. The responding Auto Theft Unit Detective shall switch their radio channel to “bait car” under the APD-Spec 1 Talk Group. The entire duration of the call shall be monitored on this Talk Group, regardless of which area command the activation originated.

3. Attempt to get a visual of the vehicle and involved individuals prior to the high-risk stop. This information is relayed to the ECC supervisor.

4. Coordinate with the Field Service Bureau (FSB) Units personnel and the Auto Theft Unit Supervisor to create an apprehension plan.

5. Assume case responsibility and complete a Uniform Incident Report, including the criminal complaint, and any other necessary arresting documentation; and

6. Coordinate with the Bait Car Technician to recover the bait car from the scene.

D.E. Pursuits and Location of Bait Cars

1. Should an officer personnel be directed to follow a mobile bait car and the suspect individual is driving in an erratic or reckless manner that places the public in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death, sworn the officer personnel shall immediately notify the operator on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor and request to disable the vehicle and lock the doors.
4.2. At no time will sworn personnel engage in a vehicle pursuit with a bait vehicle. (Refer to SOP - Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties).

2.3. In the event the bait car is not located by GPS and cannot be physically located, the on-call Auto Theft Unit Detective shall immediately complete a stolen vehicle report and enter the vehicle into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as stolen. The bait car coordinator shall then be notified.

F. Bait Car and Evidence Recovery

E.
1. Following each verified Emergency Alarm-BAIT Activation (27-7 Edward) incident, sworn personnel shall move the bait car to a location determined by the bait car coordinator. To maintain the confidentiality of the bait car program and vehicle, only plain-clothes sworn personnel shall drive the vehicle.

2. The bait car coordinator or their designee shall be responsible for collecting and tagging evidence obtained from the vehicle.

F. Confidentiality of Bait Vehicle

1. The bait car program is considered an undercover operation. Accordingly, all Department personnel shall exercise caution to protect the confidentiality of the program.

2. Department personnel shall never reveal the bait vehicle description, location of deployment, or information that may compromise the vehicle’s undercover status. (refer to SOP Personnel Code of Conduct for sanction classifications and additional duties).

G. Short-Term Bait Car Deployment

1. All short-term bait car deployments shall be monitored by the bait car coordinator or their designee.

2. The Auto Theft Unit Sergeant or their designee shall notify the ECC of the short-term deployment.