



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**Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):**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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)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

N/A

**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 Bait 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.

**7** 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:



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

**SOP 2-88**

**P&P Draft 01/05/2022**

- 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;



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-88

P&P Draft 01/05/2022

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.

N/A

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.

**N/A**

#### 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~~ outline the operating guidelines requirements for the use of the Bait Car Program, which makes use of ~~is designed for~~ a specially-equipped vehicle ~~car, or (bait car,) that can~~ to 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 -e 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 sThe coordinator shall be the Auto Theft Sergeant or their designee. The coordinator shall 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 it will be 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 period.

~~E.~~





~~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.~~

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~~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 car. 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 car 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.





ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-88

P&P Draft 01/05/2022

2. ECC Personnel shall:

~~a. Be responsible for monitoring the bait car~~ During a long-term long-term bait vehicle-car deployment or at the request of the Bait Car coordinator/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/bait car system.; ~~and~~

~~When the ECC concludes that the activation is valid, they shall identify the~~ bait car vehicle's physical location, vehicle-car description, license plate, and where applicable, the speed and direction of travel when the activation is valid.;

~~1. ECC Personnel shall:~~

~~c.~~

~~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.;~~

~~The ECC supervisor shall contact the on-call Auto theft supervisor, and notify them of the activation.~~

~~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 shall contact the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) or New Mexico State Police (NMSP) cCommunications to arrange for a coordinated response.;~~

~~c. Dispatch a minimum of two (2) units sworn personnel/officers to the vehicle location and, if the bait car is mobile, provide location updates to the responding units personnel.;~~

~~d. Notify the on-duty auto theft supervisor or area command supervisor and the Bait Car Coordinator.;~~

~~e. Have When responding units sworn personnel advise notify the ECC a Dispatcher when they have visual contact with of the vehicle, they shall advise dispatch.;~~

~~f. Have Responding sworn personnel shall will advise when it is safe to perform a high-risk stop on the vehicle.;~~ ~~and~~

~~a. The operator shall will then rRemotely disable the vehicle and lock the doors ignition at the request of the officers sworn personnel or the Auto Theft Unit supervisor.;~~ ~~and~~

~~g.~~



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~~Upon request from sworn personnels, the operator shall will remotely unlock the doors to allow personnels to conduct a high risk stop.~~

C. Responding ~~Sworn Personnel~~ 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. Sworn personnel shall who first make visual contact with the bait vehicle Upon bait car activation activation the first responding sworn personnel to make visual contact with the bait vehicle shall~~ inform the ECC ~~or~~ Dispatcher that they have made first visual contact of the bait car, and state of the location, and shall state if whether the vehicle is occupied;

~~3. Sworn personnel shall~~ Assess if whether disabling the vehicle is appropriate at the time, ~~if the vehicle bait car is occupied;~~ sworn the personnel shall assess if disabling the vehicle is appropriate at the time.

4. Advise ~~if~~ whether sworn an personnel concludes that the immediate disabling of the vehicle ~~bait car~~ would be unsafe;

~~3.a. If determined to be unsafe,~~ sworn the personnel shall follow the vehicle at a safe distance until it is such time that safe to disable disabling of the vehicle could occur the bait car.

~~4.5. When ready to disable the vehicle, sworn the personnel shall~~ Notify the ECC operator ~~or~~ Dispatcher if a request is made to disable the vehicle ~~bait car ignition~~ to disable the vehicle and lock the doors and windows. when ready to disable the vehicle;

6. Responding Officers ~~sworn personnel shall~~ Visually confirm that the vehicle disabling command has been received by noting that the auxiliary break light is flashing;

7. Once verified, ~~officers sworn personnel can~~ shall initiate a high-risk traffic stop. ~~U~~ by using After it becomes apparent that the vehicle has lost power, sworn the personnel shall ~~activate~~ their emergency equipment and advise notifying the ECC ~~or~~ Dispatcher of their stopping location and affect a high risk stop. after it becomes apparent that the vehicle has lost power; and



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-88

P&P Draft 01/05/2022

~~5. Sworn personnel shall advise the ECC operator and Dispatcher to unlock the doors and complete the stop.~~

~~Responding units shall then wait for the on-call Auto Theft Detective to arrive on scene; and~~

~~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/personnel shall notify the bait car coordinator if the vehicle was tampered with but not moved. Complete a Supplemental Report to documenting 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 airTalk 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~~

~~7. 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 shall request to disable the vehicle and lock the doors.~~

N/A



~~4.2.~~ At no time ~~will~~ shall sworn personnel engage in a vehicle pursuit with a ~~bait vehicle~~ bait car. See ~~(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 ~~shall will be immediately be completed by the on-call Auto Theft Unit detective,~~ and enter the vehicle ~~entered~~ into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as stolen. The ~~bait car coordinator~~ on-call Auto Theft Unit supervisor ~~shall~~ will 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 ~~shall will be removed~~ to a location determined by the ~~bait~~ Bait Car coordinator Coordinator. To maintain the confidentiality of the bait car program and vehicle, only plain-clothes sworn officer personnels shall drive the vehicle.
2. The ~~bait car coordinator~~ on-call Auto Theft Unit Detective or their designee ~~shall will~~ be responsible for collecting and tagging evidence obtained from the vehicle.

□ 5N/

~~4.~~ Confidentiality of ~~Bait Vehicle~~ Bait Cars

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~~2.~~

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 ~~personnel~~ shall never reveal the ~~bait vehicle~~ 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).

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~~4.~~ Short-Term Bait Car Deployment

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~~5.~~

1. All short-term bait car deployments ~~shall will~~ be monitored by the ~~bait car coordinator~~ 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.