

Disabled Vehicles

506.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines for department members who provide assistance to motorists in disabled vehicles within the primary jurisdiction of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department.

506.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department to assist motorists with disabled vehicles until those vehicles are safely removed from the roadway. Members shall take appropriate action to mitigate potential problems when a vehicle constitutes a traffic hazard or the safety of the motorist is a concern.

506.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

When an on-duty member of this department sees a disabled vehicle on the roadway in its area of responsibility, the member shall make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If this is not reasonably possible, the police communications operator shall be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. When necessary, the police communications operator may assign another department member to respond to assist the primary officer.

506.4 ASSISTANCE

In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by department members will be contingent on the time of day, the location, the availability of department resources and the vulnerability of the disabled motorist.

506.4.1 MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Department members shall not make mechanical repairs to a disabled vehicle.

506.4.2 DISABLED OR STRANDED MOTORISTS

- (a) UMBPD police officers will provide reasonable assistance to stranded and/or disabled motorists. Requests for tow trucks and to obtain fuel and repairs shall be made through the Communications Center.
- (b) During hours of darkness or when the vehicle is parked in high risk areas, the officer will stay with the citizen until assistance arrives or suggest that the motorist wait/meet the vendor at the Pine Street Police Station for safety reasons.
- (c) Disabled vehicles that threaten to create traffic bottlenecks or create an unsafe traffic situation will be towed from the roadway.
- (d) Under no circumstance shall an officer:
 - 1. Use their patrol vehicle to push or pull any vehicle for any reason.

Disabled Vehicles

2. Make mechanical repair to disabled vehicles. Officers are encouraged to contact the Communications Center for purposes of notifying the motorist's automobile association and/or a tow service for assistance.
3. Suggest or make vendor recommendations to the motorist.

506.4.3 RELOCATION OF DISABLED MOTORIST

The relocation of a disabled motorist 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 department member may stay with the disabled motorist or transport him/her to a safe area to await pickup.