



# Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center


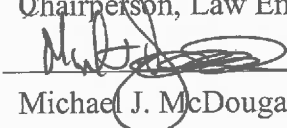
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**9-1-1**  
FIRE  
POLICE  
MEDICAL



Michael J. McDougall  
General Manager

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

<b>Policy No.</b> 4790	<b>Date Issued:</b> June 1, 1996
<b>Section:</b> 4700 -- Specific Procedures	<b>Date Revised:</b> May 14, 2007
<b>Accreditation Standards:</b> None	
<b>SUBJECT: ABANDONED VEHICLES</b>	
<b>APPROVED:</b> 	_____
	Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee
<b>APPROVED:</b> 	_____
	Michael J. McDougall, General Manager

### 1.0 Policy

An abandoned vehicle is defined as a vehicle parked on a public street or highway in excess of a specific time limit without being moved or used. This includes any vehicle parked on the street in front of a house that is not moved or used in excess of the 72-hour time limit. A vehicle may also be abandoned on private property without the property owner's knowledge or consent.

### 2.0 Procedure

- 2.1 If the vehicle is abandoned on a public roadway, or public right of way in the unincorporated area of the county, the CHP has jurisdiction, however they have an MOU with the Sheriff's Office (Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program) that allows them to handle these calls.
- 2.2 If the vehicle is abandoned within a city limit, obtain the following information from the caller:
  - ◆ Location of the vehicle
  - ◆ Description of the vehicle including the license plate number (if available)
  - ◆ How long the vehicle has been parked at the location

- ◆ If the caller provides a license plate number, run it for a hot check and registration check.
- ◆ If the vehicle is listed as stolen, the dispatcher will confirm the SVS hit with the originating agency.
  - Initiate a dispatch incident
  - Dispatch an officer to recover the vehicle
- ◆ Forward all information to the appropriate abandoned vehicle officer.
- ◆ Do not tell the reporting party when an abandoned vehicle will be towed. Advise the reporting party that you will place the vehicle on a list for abandoned vehicles and it will be tagged and towed in the order received.

### **3.0 Private Property**

- 3.1 Refer reports of abandoned vehicles on private property to a vehicle abatement officer. Private property includes: paved or dirt roads, alleys and right-of-ways that are not maintained by a city, county or state; business center parking lots; open and residential land owned by private citizens.
- 3.2 Vehicles abandoned in school parking lots, government office parking lots, State or County Parks and dirt turnouts from highways or roads may fall into either of the above categories. Refer callers to vehicle abatement.
- 3.3 Before making any referrals, dispatchers will run hot checks and registration on all reported abandoned vehicles. If the vehicle returns as stolen, dispatch an officer for a stolen vehicle recovery.