



# OFFICE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF

Montgomery County, Maryland

*Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff*



## GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Number:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
Assistance to Motorist or Pedestrians	3.10.A	09/16/19

Policy: Deputies will provide reasonable, prudent, and safe assistance to stranded motorists, disabled motorists *and* pedestrians.

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### **I. Procedures for Assisting Stranded/Disabled Motorists or Pedestrians**

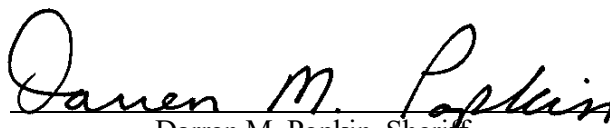
- A. Unless on an assignment of higher priority, deputies operating office vehicles, must assist a motorist or pedestrian who is in obvious need of assistance. Deputies must:
  - (1) Stop and position their vehicle in a *manner* that affords the best protection to the *disabled motorist*, the deputy, and other persons using the roadway.
  - (2) Contact the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) through use of your Mobile Data Computer (MDC) or radio and advise them of your location and status.
  - (3) Determine the nature of the emergency or assistance needed. If the emergency is a medical emergency, deputies must request the assistance of the Department of Fire *and* Rescue Services, render first aid as appropriate, and attempt to stabilize the situation until rescue personnel arrive.
  - (4) Offer the appropriate assistance to include:
    - (a) A request, via ECC, for a tow truck.
    - (b) Providing road flares for safety and visibility.
    - (c) Minor assistance with mechanical repairs, at the deputy's *discretion*.

- (d) Use of the "buddy bumper", with the agreement of the motorist, to push the disabled vehicle to the shoulder of the roadway.
  - (e) Request, via ECC, to call a third party to come to the location to assist the motorist.
  - (f) Provide the motorist a ride to a nearby service facility or telephone, so they may secure their own services.
  - (g) If transporting a person of the opposite sex, the starting and ending mileage must be provided to ECC.
- (5) Provide any other reasonable service that would meet the needs of the motorist or pedestrian.
- B. Should the vehicle be in a place which affords the occupants relative safety, and no other unusual circumstances exist which threaten the safety or well-being of the occupants, the deputy may leave after arranging for assistance.
- C. If the disabled vehicle is at a location that is unsafe, the deputy will remain with the vehicle until it can safely be removed. In certain circumstances, due to the danger presented by the vehicle's continued presence on the roadway, deputies may have to arrange for its removal, regardless of the wishes of the owner.
- D. When deputies are unable to stop for motorists or pedestrians due to heavy and/or dangerous traffic conditions or where the nature of their current assignment makes it impractical to stop, deputies must:
- (1) Advise ECC of the location of the incident and vehicle description, if appropriate, and;
  - (2) Request a unit be dispatched to assist the motorist or pedestrian.

## II. Cancellation

This directive cancels and replaces General Operational Procedure 3.10.A, Effective Date *04/01/04*.

AUTHORITY:



Darren M. Popkin, Sheriff

09/16/2019