

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order  
No.275

Effective Date  
11-01-1994

Revised Date  
08-02-2006

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Subject: Use of Push Bumpers

Reviewed 9/1/16

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## POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to provide for the prompt removal of disabled vehicles from roadways of travel. To this end, the Department has installed oversized, padded, push bumpers on some marked police units. Push bumpers shall only be used to push the vehicle as far as is necessary to clear the roadway and eliminate the traffic hazard.

Units pushing disabled vehicles shall obey any and all traffic control devices encountered (red lights/stop signs, etc.), and shall inform the operator being assisted of such prior to pushing. It shall be the officer's responsibility to maintain a safe distance between the operator's vehicle and his police unit to allow for stops mandated by traffic control devices.

## PROCEDURES

### **I. Restrictions**

- A. If a vehicle is already off of the main roadway, or does not constitute a traffic hazard, push bumpers shall not be used to move it.
- B. No vehicle shall be pushed if it is so large as to obstruct the officer's view forward. If there is any doubt as to the ability of the unit to safely push a vehicle, no attempt should be made, and other means to move the vehicle shall be found.
- C. Units not equipped with push bumpers shall not be utilized to push any vehicles.
- D. The disabled vehicle shall only be pushed as far as it takes to get the vehicle to a safe location.

### **II. Operation**

- A. Prior to pushing a disabled vehicle, the officer shall secure permission from the operator to move the vehicle and insure that the operator is capable of guiding the vehicle without power.
- B. The officer shall be sure that the disabled vehicle's transmission is in neutral, the key is in the "on" position and that its bumper is approximately the same height as the unit's push bumpers.
- C. To guard against possible damage to vehicles, the officer shall determine that there will be no substantial change in terrain to be covered during the push that may cause the sudden movement of either vehicle. The officer shall not allow his unit's push bumpers to contact the disabled vehicle while it proceeds over curbing or during turning maneuvers.
- D. The officer shall engage all emergency warning lights on his unit during the pushing of any other vehicle.

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- E. In the event that a disabled vehicle can not be pushed safely, the officer shall call for a wrecker or allow the operator to make arrangements to immediately move the vehicle. In any case, the vehicle must be removed or a wrecker summoned no longer than thirty (30) minutes from the time the officer arrives on the scene.

**III. Damage**

In the event that damage to either vehicle is sustained during a push a supervisor shall be dispatched to the scene to conduct an investigation.

- A. Photographs of the damage must be taken and each driver shall complete a written statement.
- B. A crash report is not required for minor damage sustained to either vehicle during a push. A Traffic Supplemental Report will be completed.
- C. The officer involved, or the investigating supervisor shall file a four page Accident/Incident/Injury Report and a Workman's Compensation form. A copy shall be forwarded to the officer's bureau commander.