

GENERAL ORDER 48.2.1

Abandoned Vehicles

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes a procedure for handling abandoned vehicles on City streets.

DISCUSSION

Vehicles are abandoned on public streets for various reasons. These vehicles are a nuisance and in some cases a hazard. City Code 6.335 establishes a 48 hour consecutive time limit for parking any vehicle. City Code 6.330 defines nuisance vehicles.

POLICY

I

Vehicle means any device, other than a bicycle, in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway and includes vehicles that are propelled or powered by any means (ORS 801.590).

II

Once an abandoned vehicle has been reported or observed, a Patrol Community Service Officer or Police Officer will first query the vehicle through DMV and LEDS and make a reasonable attempt to contact the registered owner. If not successful the officer will determine if the vehicle meets the definition of a nuisance vehicle.

If the abandoned vehicle meets the definition of a nuisance vehicle, officer may cite and impound the vehicle immediately. Notification of the impound will be provided as described in this policy.

If the vehicle is determined to be abandoned, it shall be marked and a notification letter left attached. After 48 hours the location shall be checked by a Patrol Community Service Officer to determine if the vehicle has been removed. If not, a Municipal Court citation and another notification letter shall be attached.

III

A nuisance vehicle is defined in the Springfield Municipal Code (SMC 6.325) as any vehicle parked upon public way that has any one or more of the following characteristics.

1. Leaking hazardous liquids or materials.
2. The engine is partially or fully dismantled, or the vehicle has no transmission.
3. The drive train components are missing, are partially or fully dismantled, or the vehicle has no transmission.
4. The vehicle has two or more missing or flat tires.
5. The vehicle has a missing or altered VIN.
6. The windows of the vehicle are broken, missing, or when exposed broken glass is present.
7. The contents pose a threat to public health or property.

IV

After the initial Municipal Court citation has been issued and the vehicle is not removed within 5 working days it shall be removed by a Patrol CSO. The violator vehicle will be towed to the City impound lot if valued at over \$2,000, or to the tow company lot if valued at less than \$2,000.

All motor vehicles impounded shall be inventoried and all articles not evidentiary value but of appreciable value shall be taken in to custody for safekeeping prior to securing the vehicle in the impound lot (city or private). The list of items shall be included on the impound report. Items of evidence taken from an impounded vehicle shall be listed on the evidence report separate from the impound report.

V

After a violator vehicle has been impounded to the City impound lot, the following working day, records staff shall obtain the most recent registered owner through DMV, and shall notify that person of the vehicle impoundment via registered mail. The tow company shall process the vehicle for disposal under ORS 819.230.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police