Supplement to MOD 04 / SES 12 1 Impound Questionnaire

Study Session Overview

This Study Session provides background information that will prepare you for the Vehicle Searches and Impounds in-class Session. You are encouraged to complete this Study Session prior to the class on Vehicle Searches and Impounds (see schedule).

Learner Objectives

- Recognize the difference between private and public impounds
- Apply the RCWs and properly impound an unauthorized vehicle

Total Study Time: 1 hour

Main Topics of Session:

- Private vs. Public Impounds
- Unauthorized Vehicles
- Impounding Requirements
- Definition of 'Highway'
- Definition of 'safe place' Relating to Impounding Vehicles

Attached Materials:

• N/A

You Should Already Have:

Pocket Press Books



Using the RCWs, research and answer the following questions. Do not copy the RCW word for word. Instead, using short answer/essays, respond as you would explain these concepts to a citizen.

1. What does it mean to impound a vehicle?

2. What is the difference between a public and a private impound?

3. What is an "Unauthorized Vehicle"?

4. What are the limitations for impounding an 'Unauthorized Vehicle'?



5. RCW 46.55.113 is a procedural RCW – a directive to officers specifying their authority to impound vehicles. What circumstances for law enforcement impounds are outlined in 46.55.113?

6. Are there any *requirements* under this RCW to impound a vehicle? What discretion do you have in applying this law?

7. Give examples of incidents where you would have the legal discretion to impound a vehicle, but would choose not to?

8. There are certain procedures that are outlined under RCW 46.55.085. This RCW covers unauthorized vehicles in the right-of-way on a highway. Under RCW 46.04.197, how is a highway defined?



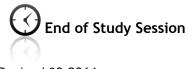
9. Give a common example of what this means.

10. You have come upon an '86 Honda Accord along SR-1234. It has been moved off the roadway and is entirely on the shoulder. The hood is partially up. No one is around the vehicle and you cannot find any notes or other indications that someone is returning. You run the vehicle and find it is not listed as stolen. You decide to start the process to impound the vehicle. What does 46.55.085 require?

11. When can the officer take custody of the vehicle and have it removed to a safe place?

12. What would be a common 'safe-place'?

13. What would you do if the RO contacted you, had seen that their vehicle was marked to be impounded, and asked for additional time to remove the vehicle?



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