

EPD POLICY MANUAL

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11.14 IMPOUND OF VEHICLES

It is the policy of this department that certain vehicles may be impounded without prior notice to the registered or legal owners. Before making impounds, officers are required to check with their shift supervisors. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to approve or deny the impound.

Towing of vehicles by department officers will follow applicable State law (RCW 46.55), City Ordinance, and procedures listed in the Vehicle Impound S.O.P.

It is the policy of this department that ~~that~~ unless impoundment is required by State law, vehicles will be impounded only after all other means of solving a problem have been exhausted.

~~The case of State v. Reynoso, 41 Wn. App. 113 (1985), was the first Washington case that articulated that impoundment of a vehicle is a "seizure" subject to federal and state constitutional requirements. requires that f. Thus, for an impoundment to be valid under this Statute, the impoundment must be "reasonable." Whether impoundment of a vehicle is reasonable must be determined from the facts of each case.~~

~~If the reason for a vehicle impound is that the driver is not validly licensed, officers will be aware that the State legislature's traditional and primary interest in authorizing impoundment of The intent of the Statute vehicles driven by non-licensed drivers is to prevent further violation of the Licensing Laws; if a person who holds a valid driver's license is available to remove a vehicle, it is not reasonable to impound the vehicle under these circumstances under this Statute.~~

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- 11.2 Traffic Law Enforcement
- 11.2.1 Uniform Enforcement Policies
- 11.3 Issuing Citations
- 11.4 Contact with Violators
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- 11.6 Response to Collisions
- 11.7 Traffic Fatalities/Vehicular Homicide
- 11.8 Police Vehicle Collision
- 11.9 Traffic Direction and Control
- 11.10 High Visibility Clothing
- 11.11 Hazardous Highway Conditions
- 11.12 Vehicle Lockouts/Emergency Assistance
- 11.13 Civilian Vehicle Escorts
- 11.14 Impound of Vehicles
- 11.15 Removal of Unauthorized Vehicles/Towing
- 11.16 Inspection of Junk Motor Vehicles
- 11.17 Special Inspections
- 11.18 Automated License Plate Reader Technology

Procedure Manual Table of Contents Change:

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Policy Section

11.18 Automated License Plate Reader Technology

The Everett Police Department may employ Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. ALPR provides automated detection of license plates. Its primary function is to convert data taken in the field from vehicle plates and use it for the law enforcement purposes of identifying stolen vehicles, stolen license plates, and missing persons. ALPRs are also used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery. ALPR data can be stored for later use.

The lieutenant overseeing the traffic safety unit will be the system administrator. He/she will be responsible for the following:

- Overseeing and administering the ALPR program, including the storage and management of all ALPR data systems.
- Ensuring the proper selection of the personnel approved to operate the ALPR system.
- Ensuring appropriate training of operators and that training is completed prior to an operator using the system.
- Ensuring that all training is documented.
- Ensuring the provision of ongoing training as deemed necessary.
- Authorizing any requests for ALPR use of data access.

Use of the ALPRs is restricted to the purposes outlined in the Procedures section of this manual. Any agency personnel permitted to access historical ALPR data must meet the same criteria as other agency employees, including law enforcement, regarding authorization to access data. No officer should use, or authorize the use of, the equipment or database records for any non-approved reason.

Procedures

25.05 Automated License Plate Reader Technology (ALPR)

An ALPR system is a computerized system consisting of specialized digital cameras, a processor unit and a laptop computer. The mobile camera system mounted on police patrol vehicles recognizes plates in real time. An ALPR reads a plate and compares it against a database of suspect vehicles, alerting the officer to any matches. It uses a large list of target plates stored locally in a "hot list" rather than relying on real-time communications with State or Federal data sources. The list is typically transferred daily and can be updated by the operator

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