

October 19, 2001

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM NO. 01-23**

**SUBJECT:** Push Bumpers

**I. PURPOSE**

The department has incorporated push bumpers into the marked fleet of vehicles. Not all vehicles will be equipped with these devices, but this policy establishes guidelines regarding their use.

**II. POLICY**

The push bumpers are only to be used for pushing disabled vehicles that are on a public highway or roadway causing, or likely to cause, obstruction of traffic. Prior consent of the owner/operator is desired, however, may be optional in situations when the removal of the vehicle is considered an emergency.

**III. PROCEDURE**

- A. Only non-commercial passenger vehicles will be pushed via the push bumper.
- B. Push bumpers will not be used to push start vehicles.
- C. Officers should not push a vehicle if they determine the driver is not capable of operating the vehicle to be pushed.
- D. Officers will adhere to the following when utilizing push bumpers:
  - 1. Have the motorist complete the Push Bumper Release Form, Form 81 P.D., before moving the vehicle, unless circumstances dictate the vehicle should be moved without delay. In these instances, the officer will make every effort to have the motorist complete the form after the vehicle has been moved. The motorist will receive the yellow copy of the form, and the original will be forwarded to the Legal Office.
  - 2. Activate emergency lights while rendering assistance to disabled vehicles.

3. Ensure traffic is clear, or stopped if necessary, and push the disabled vehicle to the nearest shoulder or closest safe location.
4. The following instructions will be given to the person operating the vehicle being pushed:
  - a. Place the vehicle in neutral.
  - b. Keep foot off of the brake while the actual push is underway and the vehicles are touching.

**NOTE:** Drivers should be advised that loss of power may affect power steering and brakes.
  - c. Signal when ready to be pushed by raising their hand.
  - d. Explain that they will feel a slight bump when the push bumper makes contact with the vehicle.
  - e. Steer the vehicle to the predetermined location agreed upon by the driver and officer.
5. Make extremely slow contact with the disabled vehicle, then check for proper alignment of the vehicles; the push bumpers should be contacting the bumper squarely and have plenty of clearance up and down so the push bars don't ride up and crush the trunk lid.

**NOTE:** Officers should be aware of trailer hitches, as they can make push bumper use not advisable.
6. Do not exceed 10 M.P.H. during push, as faster speeds may activate the airbag(s).
7. Disengage the push if the vehicle begins to turn.
8. Report any damage to either vehicle sustained during a push to their immediate supervisor.
  - a. If a Department vehicle sustains damage, Police Vehicle Damage Information, Form 154 P.D., will be completed. A copy will be forwarded to the Legal Office.
  - b. If the disabled vehicle sustains damage as a result of the push, the officer will notate the damage in the comment section of the Push Bumper Release Form, Form 81 P.D., and take a polaroid picture of the vehicle's damage. The date, location and time will be noted on the picture, and will be forwarded with the original Form 81 P.D., to the Legal Office.

- c. **A Missouri Uniform Accident Report, Form 9 P.D., will not be completed.**

Richard D. Easley  
Chief of Police

**DISTRIBUTION:** Law Enforcement Personnel  
Department Element Manuals  
Post on bulletin boards for two weeks.