

BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT
BERLIN, MARYLAND

SUBJECT: TOWING VEHICLES		NO: 400 T-3
APPROVED/EFFECTIVE DATE June 28, 2010	AMENDS	RESCINDS
DISTRIBUTION/DATE A	REFERENCES Ocean City PD General Orders	

- .10 Officers may tow vehicles which are impeding the free flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic, vehicles parked in tow away zones, vehicles seized as evidence, vehicles considered prisoner's property when the driver is arrested, and all vehicles designated by law as abandoned.
- .20 Officers shall promptly conduct an inventory of any vehicle about to be towed into police custody. The inventory shall be captured on the Berlin Police Department Vehicle Impoundment and Inventory Record. Items of unusual value should be removed and turned into property for safekeeping.
- .30 When requesting a licensed tow company from the dispatcher, the officer shall provide the dispatcher with the make and type of vehicle and any need for special equipment.
- .40 ACCIDENTS - The owner/operator should be given an opportunity to park the vehicle legally. If unable to do so without creating a hazard, the owner/operator should be allowed to have contacted a tow company of his/her choosing who can respond within 20 minutes. If the owner/operator is unable to comply with these requirements, the officer shall request the dispatcher to send an available tow operator.
- .50 RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE - Recovered stolen vehicles should be processed for evidence prior to being towed. The vehicle may be released to the owner without being towed. Upon being notified of a recovery, dispatchers shall notify the reporting agency of the recovery.
- .60 EVIDENCE - All vehicles involved in a serious crime should be processed. If the vehicle cannot be immediately processed the vehicle should be transported to a secured area for storage until processing can be completed. The vehicle may be released to the owner without being towed.

- .70 PRISONER'S VEHICLE - With the owner/operator's permission, the vehicle may be turned over to another legal driver or secured and parked legally in lieu of impounding. If the arrestee is intoxicated or unable to comply with these options, the officer shall have the vehicle towed.