

**8.13**  
**CRAIG POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of Chief of Police**  
**General Order**

**Date Issued:** November 1, 1997

**Revision Date:** April 1, 2009

**Subject:** Abandoned Motor Vehicles - Public &  
Private Property

**Reference:**

**To:** All Officers

**I. POLICY:**

The Craig Police Department will investigate, and take appropriate action, on all reports of abandoned motor vehicles on private and public property. Reports of abandoned motor vehicles on public property will be based on complaints or on-view. Private property requires a complaint from a citizen.

**II. DISCUSSION:**

**A. Abandonment of Motor Vehicles - Public Property Tows: CRS 42-4-1801.**

1. 42-4-1802 (1)(b) - Abandoned Motor Vehicle. Any motor vehicle left unattended on public property, including any portion of a highway right-of-way, within any limits of any ...town or city for a period longer than any limit prescribed by any local ordinance...if there is no such ordinance, for a period of forty-eight hours or longer.

**B. Abandonment of Motor Vehicles - Private Tow: CRS 42-4-2103.**

1. 42-4-2103 - Abandoned Motor Vehicle. (1) No person shall abandon any motor vehicle upon private property other than his or her own. Any owner or lessee, or the owner or lessee's agent authorized in writing, may have an abandoned motor vehicle removed from his or her property by having it towed and impounded by an operator.

**C. Nuisance Prohibited - 8.12.010 of the Craig Municipal Code provides definitions of vehicle, junk vehicle and inoperable as they are related to nuisance.**

**III. PROCEDURE:**

Generally, the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) will be responsible for handling abandoned motor vehicles on public or private property. If the CEO is unavailable, it is the officer's responsibility to respond to calls for service under sub-section A and C below.

**A. Public Property -** If the vehicle is abandoned under sub-section (A)(1) above, the officer should impound the vehicle, complete an inventory and have the next tow company on the list remove the vehicle to Police Department storage area.

**B. Private Property** - If the vehicle is abandoned under sub-section (B) or (C) above, the officer should proceed as follows:

1. Verify violations of City and/or State regulations.
2. Contact the resident (if not present, contact the property owner) and red tag the vehicles.
3. If after 10 days of serving the red tag, a visible attempt has not been made to correct the violations, serve the resident (or owner) with an administrative citation for the violation(s).
4. An extension may be granted only if a visible attempt is being made to correct the violation(s).

**C. Private Property** - Occasionally the property owner will request the removal of a vehicle that has been abandoned on his/her property.

1. Check the vehicle(s) identification number and license plate through CCIC and NCIC to determine the owner(s) and if the vehicle is stolen.
2. Have the Code Enforcement Officer(s) contact a tow company to remove the vehicle to their police department storage area.

**D. Abatement - Notice - Expiration 8.12.030.**

1. Upon expiration of the time fixed in the notice mentioned in III B (3) above, and the owner and/or resident has not removed the vehicle(s) after it was red tagged and an administrative citation has been issued, the code enforcement officer will impound the motor vehicle, and have the next tow company remove the vehicle from the property.
2. If the owner and/or resident are absent and cannot be contacted personally, an administrative citation will be sent by certified mail to the last known address. If the owner and/or resident cannot be contacted after all reasonable attempts have been made, the code enforcement officer will have the vehicle removed as outlined in III D (1) above.

**Approved By:**



**Walter K. Vanatta  
Chief of Police**