

POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE-REQUESTED WRECKER SERVICE REGULATIONS

PURPOSE: The purpose of these regulations is to provide a uniform process for the Police Department to utilize private wrecker services to assist them in keeping the streets and highways of the City of Colonial Heights safe for vehicular movement. The following requirements must be met and maintained for a wrecker service to be listed on the Colonial Heights Police Department rotating call list. The rotating call list will only be used in cases where a wrecker service is needed and the party needing the service does not or cannot designate their own. This rotation list will not be used for instances where a specific request is made by a party or in cases of tractor-trailers and other large equipment.

COMPLIANCE: Failure of any listed wrecker service to comply with any or all of the requirements will be cause for it to be removed from the rotation call list.

BUSINESS LICENSE: The wrecker service must be licensed to conduct business in the City of Colonial Heights by the Commissioner of Revenue.

FEES: This provision has been preempted by federal law (the Airport Improvement Program, Public Law 10-305).

VEHICLE STORAGE: Each listed wrecker service must have an approved vehicle storage location within the City of Colonial Heights that complies with all required zoning regulations and must be of a size to accommodate the storage of a minimum of five cars.

The vehicles towed at the request of the police will be stored at this lot and be available for release to the owner or other authorized persons at all times, night or day. Vehicles towed at the request of the police will be stored inside a locked facility if the requesting officer so designates, because of obvious valuables in the vehicle or other mitigating circumstances.

STORAGE FEES: This provision has been preempted by federal law (the Airport Improvement Program, Public Law 10-305).

RESPONSE: Only wreckers properly registered, licensed by the City of Colonial Heights, and housed within the City of Colonial Heights are allowed to respond initially to calls for a non-preference wrecker. Once on the scene, the on-call wrecker service is permitted to chose and call for any backup wrecker service when such backup is deemed necessary by the police officer on the scene. The wrecker company representative must advise the City's Communications personnel when he does not have a wrecker licensed and housed in the City of Colonial Heights available to answer the initial call for service. The Communications personnel shall then call the next wrecker service located on the call list.

COLONIAL HEIGHTS CODE

Wrecker services, including any backup wrecker, shall respond to a request and be on the scene within 15 minutes of being notified.

TRUCK/TRACTOR TRAILERS: The rotation call list will not be used in cases that require large or specialized equipment. These services will be called on a nearest location basis or other factors to be determined by the Police Department as the situation dictates.

TIME ON CALL: Each wrecker service on the rotating list will be responsible for calls for 24 hours at a time, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Each wrecker service must have a wrecker registered, licensed, and housed in the City of Colonial Heights and shall have at least the following accessories available on the wrecker:

- a. Broom - suitable to sweep and clean glass debris from street;
- b. Shovel and container to pick up debris;
- c. Emergency light (amber);
- d. Fire extinguisher - no less than one 2A20B:C classification;
- e. Towing sling or rigid bar to protect vehicle being towed;
- f. Dollies; and
- g. Minimum of five-gallon container of oil dry absorbent material.

All wreckers on the rotating list will be inspected annually by the Police Department to insure that all accessory equipment is being carried.

All operators employed by the wrecker service shall hold a valid operator's and/or commercial driver's license as required by the Code of Virginia, and shall have such license in their possession at all times when operating wreckers and other equipment. The Police Department shall require in advance the names of all wrecker operators employed by the wrecker service, and shall have the operator's background investigated. The Chief of Police, in his discretion, may refuse to allow any wrecker operator who has been convicted of a crime, to operate a wrecker for police-requested towing.

All wrecker services on City rotation shall ~~comply with Va. Code Section 46.2-1076 which requires~~ *have* the name, address, and telephone number of the business on the wrecker. It shall be the responsibility of the wrecker service to remove ALL debris, complying with Va. Code Section 18.2-324, from the scene of any accident. This includes any injurious substance that has been deposited on the highway. All liquids on the roadway shall be covered with an oil-drying compound, swept up and removed from the scene. For spills where there is a danger of a fire, the fire department shall respond. There shall be NO WASHDOWNS, NO EXCEPTIONS. After they are finished, any remaining vehicle fluids are the responsibility of the wrecker service. The officer on the scene must approve the area prior to the wrecker's departure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The wrecker service agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Colonial Heights, its officers and employees, from all claims, losses or expenses arising out of the participation of the City's rotation list for wrecker services.

The wrecker service operator shall in all instances sign the appropriate Vehicle Inventory forms filled out by the requesting police officer.

The City of Colonial Heights reserves the right to update and/or change any of these regulations. Prior notice of any changes shall be given in writing to all wrecker services.

An insurance binder shall be furnished to the City from each wrecker service, with coverage meeting at least the minimum amount required by law, as determined by the City Attorney, ~~under Va. Code Sections 56-300 and 56-304.6.2.~~

Wrecker services desiring to be placed on the rotating list shall complete the appropriate application forms.

Once a wrecker service is added to the rotating list, it shall remain on the list for an indefinite period of time.

Any wrecker service licensed to operate in the City of Colonial Heights, that meets and agrees to all of the listed requirements, is eligible to be included on the rotating list. The Chief of Police has the authority to oversee this policy and to remove any wrecker service found to violate any of these regulations. The owner of any wrecker service removed from the rotating list by the Chief of Police has the right to appeal that decision to the City Manager within five working days.

BACKGROUND: On August 1 of each year, and each time a new wrecker operator employee is hired, wrecker companies licensed within the City of Colonial Heights shall supply the following information to the Chief of Police on forms provided by the Police Department:

The names of all wrecker operator employees and their sex, race, date of birth, social security number, and residence for the preceding five years.