

# Bowie Police Department - General Orders



TITLE: NOTIFICATION OF NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES	NUMBER: 443
EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/30/16	REVIEW DATE:
_ NEW _X AMENDS _ RESCINDS	DATE: 12/21/12

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## I. POLICY

- A. Any time a situation exists that creates a hazard or potential hazard, the Officer identifying the situation will request that Police Communications or the Police Station if appropriate, notify Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, State Highway Administration, and City of Bowie Public Works, motorist assistance agencies, such as AAA or a road side assistance, etc. so that the situation can be corrected as soon as possible.
  
- B. Some examples of situations requiring immediate notification include, and may not be limited to:
  - 1. Essential traffic light in need of repair
  - 2. Missing essential signs;
  - 3. Large holes in the road, defects in the roadway;
  - 4. Large pieces of debris in the road
  - 5. Roadside hazards;
  - 6. Snow/ice on roads or bridges;
  - 7. Disabled or abandoned vehicles.
  
- C. If an Officer is unsure of which agency has jurisdiction over the road in question, the Officer should check with the on duty supervisor.
  
- D. If an Officer is confronted with a tree in the roadway or otherwise in need of removal, depending on location, the Officer must advise Police Communications via the radio, or City of Bowie Call Center via the phone, of the approximate dimensions of the tree, i.e., length, diameter, and type, if known, so that removal crews can be dispatched with the right equipment.
  
- E. If an Officer chooses to notify street/highway personnel himself/herself by station phone, he/she must, in addition, make Police Communications aware of the problem and the notification in the event a citizen calls 9-1-1 to report the situation.

## **II. NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PERSONNEL**

- A. The notification of public utilities personnel will be made in the same manner described above. Situations requiring the immediate notification of utilities personnel include, and may not be limited to:
  - 1. Power lines down;
  - 2. Breaks in water, gas, or other utility mains; and,
  - 3. Fire hazards needing immediate attention.
- B. An Officer confronted with a situation requiring the response of public utilities personnel will make Police Communications aware of the specific problem and of which utility needs to respond.
- C. If an Officer makes the notification himself/herself, the Officer should still advise communications of the problem and the fact that the utility was notified in the event communications receives call from citizens.

## **III. NOTIFYING THE MEDIA**

- A. Pursuant to the Department's media policies, if an Officer is on the scene of an incident which will likely disrupt traffic for an extended period of time, especially during rush-hour, the Officer will notify Public Safety Communications.
- B. If the Officer chooses to make the notification himself/herself, the Officer should still advise communications of the problem and the fact that media notification has been made.
- C. The Alert Bowie Coordinator should also be notified by the Supervisor so the information can be disseminated over the system.