

Policy Name:	STOLEN / CRIME VEHICLES		
Policy #:	OP 4.36.9	Last Updated:	2022-06-08
Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

OP 4.36.3 *Stopping Suspect Vehicles*

OP 4.36.8 *Towing and Impounding Vehicles*

1. PURPOSE

1.1. To ensure Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members have a guide to investigating crime vehicles and stolen automobiles.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

3.1. SPS will recover and have unoccupied stolen vehicles towed to the designated impound lot.

3.2. A request for forensic examination by the Lower Mainland District Integrated Forensic Identification Service (LMD IFIS) of an unoccupied stolen/crime vehicle will only occur where there may be sufficient physical evidence and circumstances to support a criminal charge.

3.3. SPS has a duty to safely apprehend persons suspected of having committed criminal offences; however, there are times when it may be operationally necessary or desirable to allow a suspect to return to a stolen vehicle and drive away. However, allowing a stolen/crime vehicle to be driven away, has the potential of unnecessarily placing Members, the suspects, and the public at increased risk of harm. Therefore, Members must be able to articulate that the risk of allowing a suspect to drive away in a stolen/crime vehicle is less than the potential risk of preventing a suspect from doing so.

3.4. Situations where a suspect may be allowed to return to and drive away in a stolen/crime vehicle are when it is unsafe for Members to attempt to immediately arrest a suspect returning to stolen/crime vehicle:

- i. it is deemed necessary to further a more serious criminal investigation;
- ii. Members believe the risk of allowing a suspect to drive away in a stolen/crime vehicle is less than the potential risk of preventing a suspect from doing so;
- iii. the suspect will be apprehended using other approved tactical options as soon as practicable;
- iv. Members with the knowledge and advanced training methods (e.g., surveillance, GPS, use of vehicle disabling techniques, etc.) are available to assist in the apprehension of the driver and/or occupants later; or
- v. the tactical operation has been approved by a Supervisor and the Duty Officer.

3.5. If an unoccupied stolen / crime vehicle is allowed to be occupied and to be driven away, all Members involved are accountable and potentially liable for the outcome and must justify their actions and their decision-making processes related to the incident.

4. PROCEDURE

S. 15 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S. 19

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S. 15

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

"CPIC" means the Canadian Police Information Centre, the computerized national information repository and retrieval system operated by the RCMP on behalf of the nation's policing community that facilitates the sharing of information among authorized agencies.

"Duty Officer" means the Frontline Policing Inspector.

"Member" means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

"PRIME-BC" means the Police Records Information Management Environment, the provincial police records management system.

"SPS" means Surrey Police Service.

"Supervisor" means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES