

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 180

Supersedes: 89-1-41.2.8.1

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UNOCCUPIED STOLEN VEHICLES

- I. **PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for disabling and conducting surveillance on an unoccupied stolen vehicle and apprehending actors involved in the incident.
- II. **OBJECTIVES:**
- A. To disabled an unoccupied stolen vehicle to prevent it from being operated and becoming involved in a police pursuit.
 - B. To enhance the chance of apprehension of the operator and occupants of the stolen vehicle.
 - C. To reduce the possibility of personal injury or property damage.
- III. **POLICY:** The Upper Merion Township Police Department will attempt to disable or immobilize an unoccupied stolen vehicle to prevent its operation and possible pursuit in order to reduce chance of personal injury or property damage.
- IV. **PROCEDURES:** The following procedures shall be followed in those situations where an unoccupied stolen vehicle is located and the investigating officers have reason to believe the actor may return to the vehicle.
- 1. The V.I.N. should be checked on the suspected stolen vehicle to verify the vehicle is actually stolen and not just the registration plate.

[REDACTED]

3. The investigating officer(s) may establish a surveillance of this vehicle with permission of the shift supervisor or command officers.
4. If practical, the Investigation Division shall be notified so that plain clothes officers and unmarked police vehicles are utilized during the surveillance.
5. The surveillance shall be maintained at the discretion of the shift supervisor or command personnel.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. If we have reason to believe the actors will not return to the vehicle, arrange for its removal immediately. Surveillance may be a waste of time.
9. It is recognized that every situation is unique and requires a certain amount of latitude and discretion by the officers involved. However, the application of these guidelines should serve to avoid police pursuits of stolen vehicles and the unnecessary endangering of persons and property.

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers
All police dispatchers
Township Manager
File