



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-154
11/18/20

Reporting and Towing Procedures Stunt Vehicle/Street Racing/Reckless Driving/Exhibition of Speed/Evading

Informal demonstrations of automotive stunts is a crime. Stunt driving occurs when vehicles and/or pedestrian spectators block intersections to perform vehicle maneuvers such as donuts, figure eights, and ghost driving while crowds gather to watch.

Street racing is a crime. This offense is commonly called a "street race," "speed race," or "drag race." It is illegal in California to engage in a speed contest with motor vehicles on public streets or highways. Penalties can vary.

The Traffic Collision Investigation Unit (TCIU) has been assigned the lead role in investigating all citywide Stunt Vehicle/Street Racing/Exhibition of Speed/Reckless Driving/Evading incidents that are non-gang affiliated/related. When there is gang related/associated violence, the Gang Task Force (GTF) will handle this part of the investigation. When a discharge of a firearm is involved, Crime Gun Investigations Center (CGIC) will handle this part of the investigation.

When documenting Stunt Vehicle/Street Racing incidents, members shall prepare an incident report in Crime Data Warehouse (CDW). **The primary title of the incident report should be "Driving, Stunt Vehicle/Street Racing – 65021."** Ensure a copy of the incident report is routed to TCIU, by using the dropdown tab "Reported to Bureau" and select "Traffic Collision Investigations Unit." Scan and upload any statements along with any attachments to the incident report. Fax completed incident reports to TCIU (415) 553-1637.

CDW Secondary Codes:

Evading A Police Officer Recklessly - 27175
Evading A Police Officer, Injury or Death - 27176
Driving, Drag Racing - 65013
Driving, Reckless - 65020
Driving Reckless, With Injury - 65014
Vehicle, Impounded - 07053

When documenting incidents of Stunt vehicle/Street Racing/Exhibition of Speed/Reckless Driving/Evading incidents, reporting officers and witnessing officers shall each clearly and accurately describe their own observations in a statement. Writing a statement such as "view body worn camera for specifics" will not suffice. Supervisors reviewing the report shall ensure adherence to *DN 20-134, Report Writing Responsibilities*.

The report should include the following information:

- Estimated size of the crowd.
- Number of vehicles involved.
- Vehicle(s) description and/or license plate(s).
- Probability of identifying the driver and/or passenger(s). It is important to know if the registered owner was in or around the vehicle.
- Specific action each vehicle listed in the report was observed doing, i.e. approximate speed, dangerous distance from crowd, donuts, figure eights, etc. Crime elements that establish a crime was committed should be included.
- Search results for video evidence. If located, document the location and steps taken to acquire the evidence.
- Utilize Body Worn Camera (BWC) to capture clear footage of the stunt vehicle(s), vehicle license plate(s), vehicle driver(s) and clothing description.

Vehicle Tows. Hold for TCIU

23109.2(a)(1) CVC Towing Authority with a 30-day Hold:

23103 (a) CVC Reckless Driving, Highway
23103 (b) CVC Reckless Driving, Off street Parking Facility
23109 (a) CVC Speed Contest
23109 (c) CVC Exhibition of Speed
*Do not tow for 23109 (b) CVC or 23109 (d) CVC

The Following Are Towable Under Tow Authority 22655.3 CVC with no 30-day Hold:

2800.1 CVC Evading an Officer
2800.2 CVC Evading an Officer, Reckless

The Following is Towable Under Tow Authority 22655.5 CVC with no 30-day Hold:


2800.3 CVC Evading an Officer, Causing Injury or Death

Members shall request District/Unit supervisor approval for vehicle tows with a hold for TCIU.

Although arrests and vehicle tows cannot always occur at the time of a sideshow or evading incident, Tow Authority **CVC 14602.7(a)** allows law enforcement to obtain a warrant to remove vehicles that are used in violation of CVC 2800.1, 2800.2, 2800.3 or 23103 and impound them for 30 days. TCIU will review stunt vehicle/reckless driving and evading incident reports to determine if reasonable cause has been established to present a warrant to a magistrate to seize a vehicle.

Response Procedures:

Response procedures to Stunt Vehicle incidents may vary. Supervisors on scene will provide direction based on the circumstances considering officer safety as a primary factor in the handling of these incidents.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DN 20-150, All Sworn & Non-Sworn Members shall electronically acknowledge this Department Document in PowerDMS. Members whose duties are relevant to this Document shall be held responsible for compliance. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional information.