

Salinas Police Department

Abandoned Vehicle Information



What defines an Abandoned Vehicle (AV):

- A vehicle that has been parked in the same place for 72 or more consecutive hours.
- A vehicle that is missing parts, leaking fluids, has flat or low tires and has debris on or around it.

What gives SPD authority to tow an AV:

- The California Vehicle Code gives Police Departments authority to remove vehicles from the street if they meet the criteria.
- Some of the common reasons are:
 - a vehicle that is unregistered for more than 6 months
 - a vehicle that has been marked and not moved after 72 hours
 - a vehicle that is missing parts
 - a vehicle with airbags deployed

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my vehicle is parked in front of my house? Even if your vehicle is in front of your house, it can be marked and towed after 72 hours. The street is public property and not meant for vehicle storage.

If my vehicle has been marked, can I just move it across the street? No. The officer doing the follow up must see evidence that the vehicle is being driven or has been driven more than just across the street.

What do I do if my vehicle has been towed? If your vehicle has been towed, you must get a release from the Salinas Police Department. There is a fee for a vehicle release (**this is separate from the tow companies fees**).

In order to obtain a vehicle release, you will need to show proof of insurance and the Registered Owner (RO) must be present. If the RO is unavailable, a notarized letter from the RO will suffice.

How do I report an AV? AVs may be reported several ways:

Online – www.salinaspd.com/report_a_problem

Phone – 831-758-7316

There is mandatory information we need in order to look into a possible AV. Minimally, we need the location, vehicle description, and license plate information.

(See reverse for Frequently Asked Questions)

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