

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

GENERAL ORDER 100.30

REVISED NOVEMBER 2018

CLOSING OF HIGHWAYS FOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this General Order (GO) is to establish Department policy governing the closing of highways for salvage operations. The objective is to provide California Highway Patrol officers with information and procedures necessary to ensure proper and expeditious removal of obstructions which impede the smooth and continuous flow of traffic.

2. POLICY. California Highway Patrol officers are authorized to temporarily close highways, or to detour traffic in an emergency, in order to protect the lives and safety of motorists.

a. Officers are not authorized to close highways or detour traffic for commercial salvage operations.

b. Officers are not authorized to halt or provide a break in traffic for commercial helicopter operations when external loads are being transported over congested highways.

3. PROCEDURE.

a. Roadways shall remain open for traffic during minor salvage operations when traffic will not be impeded or exposed to hazardous situations.

b. Commercial salvage operations on state highways may be conducted only under the authority of, and in compliance with, an encroachment permit issued by the California Department of Transportation when:

(1) The operation cannot be completed within 30 minutes.

(2) The blocking or partial blocking of the highway is necessary.

NOTE: Commercial salvage operations are defined as those methods utilized by commercial salvage agencies or tow truck operators to remove wrecked

vehicles, damaged and disabled vehicles, displaced loads, or other property considered valuable or having further usefulness.

c. Commanders shall deny requests to provide breaks in traffic for commercial helicopters transporting external loads during salvage operations. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, Part 133.33, prohibit helicopters from flying over congested areas, such as freeways, while engaged in external load operations, unless FAA approval has been obtained and the flight path has been coordinated with local state transportation agencies.

d. Encroachment permits shall not be required for closing highways when:

(1) The lives or safety of occupants, or recovery of bodies of victims is involved.

(2) Wrecked vehicles or other hazards are blocking the highway and constitute an immediate hazard to other motorists.

(3) It is necessary to detour or reroute traffic due to a crash, fire, or other emergency.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 061