



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



531.03 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) EQUIPPED PROPERTY 3-16-18

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for responding to and deploying officers to the theft of GPS-enabled equipment owned by either private citizens or the Department.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to enhance public safety by using Department property enabled with GPS equipment as bait and by responding to GPS activations to apprehend suspects.

PROCEDURE

A. GENERAL

1. GPS technology may be used to
 - a. Proactively address crime series and patterns.
 - b. Deter crimes of theft by advertising deployment of the equipment.
 - c. Facilitate the safe apprehension of suspects.
 - d. Recover property.
 - e. Promote officer and citizen safety.
2. Officers should remember to use the appropriate search authority in a manner consistent with federal, state, and current case laws, such as, but not limited to, consent, probation/parole, exigent circumstances, and search warrants. Employees should refer to the Search Manual (RM 526.01) for more information and clarification.

B. GPS ENABLED EQUIPMENT – PRIVATELY OWNED

1. Officers shall be dispatched to recover privately owned GPS enabled equipment after it has been deemed lost or stolen by an authorized possessor.
2. The incident code “496G” shall be used when dispatching officers to calls involving privately owned GPS equipment. Examples of privately owned GPS equipment include cellular telephones, electronic tablets, computers, etc.
3. Before using GPS technology to locate the lost or stolen equipment, officers should attempt to obtain consent from the authorized possessor. The consent shall be documented in a General Offense or Information Report; if no report is generated, the consent shall be documented in miscellaneous comments on the call.

C. GPS ENABLED BAIT EQUIPMENT – DEPARTMENT OWNED

1. Officers deploying GPS enabled bait shall notify the Communication Center and enter the equipment in Tech Deployments on The Hub prior to deploying the equipment.
2. The notification and Hub entry shall include
 - a. The GPS tag number.
 - b. A description of the item used as bait, including physical description, serial numbers, other identifying information, and the value of the item.
 - c. The name of the officer responsible for the deployment.
 - d. The location where the bait was deployed.
 - (1) If deployed on private property, consent must be given by a party responsible for that property.
 - (2) Consent for deployment shall be notated in a crime report if the GPS equipment was taken and/or recovered in a theft.
 - e. Any special instructions or important notes for responding field personnel.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS



- f. A photograph of the bait item.
 - g. The location of any “clue spray” used.
 3. The deploying officer shall
 - a. Maintain an inventory list of all property equipped with GPS and track the location where the property was deployed in Tech Deployments on The Hub.
 - b. Notify the Communications Center when the GPS equipment is deployed.
 - c. Activate the tag in 3SI Active Robbery System.
 4. Dispatchers shall monitor 3SI GPS bait equipment deployed by the Department using the 3SI Active Robbery System.
 - a. 3SI GPS bait equipment privately owned by businesses located within the City shall be monitored utilizing the 3SI Active Robbery System.
 - (1) Response to privately owned 3SI GPS bait equipment should be the same as Department owned.
 - (2) Once located, privately owned 3SI GPS bait equipment shall be handled consistent with privately owned GPS equipment. Refer to section D, subsections 6 and 7.
 - b. Examples of businesses privately owning 3SI GPS bait equipment include banks, pharmacies, etc.
 5. Dispatchers shall dispatch officers when there is a 3SI GPS bait equipment activation. If the GPS bait equipment is moving, dispatchers shall continue to monitor the GPS activation and provide updates to the responding units.
 6. The Incident code “496B” shall be used when dispatching officers to calls involving 3SI GPS bait equipment.
 7. Reports involving property not being actively tracked shall be handled as outlined in Communications Directive 510.05 (Criteria for Dispatch).
- D. LOCATING PROPERTY EQUIPPED WITH GPS**
1. Officers contacting a suspect in possession of bait equipment equipped with GPS should not disclose to the suspect that he or she is in possession of GPS bait equipment.
 2. Officers contacting a suspect in possession of bait equipment equipped with GPS shall
 - a. Document in a crime report how the property was located.
 - b. Notify dispatch that the GPS equipment was located.
 - c. Return the property to the deploying unit or to their designated location.
 3. The field supervisor, deploying officer, or designee shall change the related Hub entry under Tech Deployments from Active to Inactive.
 4. A Communications Center supervisor shall remove the GPS bait equipment from the 3SI Active Robbery System.
 5. A Communications Center supervisor or deploying officer should add the Track ID from 3sittracking.com as a miscellaneous comment on the call.
 6. GPS equipped property that does not belong to the Department should be field-evidence released to the legal owner after ownership has been established.
 7. CSI shall process the property on scene only if necessary for fingerprinting or other evidence.
 8. If GPS equipment is not located after being taken, officers shall use a hand-held tracker to locate the equipment.
 - a. The hand-held trackers should be maintained by the deploying unit.
 - b. The equipment needs to send an active signal for the hand-held tracker to locate the equipment.
 - (1) The deploying unit or designee should be responsible for re-activating the GPS signal on GPS bait equipment that has not been located in the field during the working hours of that unit.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



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- (2) 3SI should be contacted to reactivate the signal if officers are unable to locate GPS bait equipment after hours. Instructions for contacting 3SI for assistance should be attached to the hand-held tracker.
9. If GPS equipment is not located after an activation due to damage or destruction, or due to battery life, officers shall
- a. Investigate all leads in an attempt to locate the equipment.
 - b. Document the investigation in a crime report.
 - c. Notify the deploying officer.