

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| TITLE: | BAIT CAR |
| CODIFIED: | 69.2 |
| EFFECTIVE: | 11/15/2016 |
| RESCINDS/AMENDS: | |
| PAGES: | 4 |

PURPOSE

The bait car program is designed to strategically place a specially equipped vehicle in an area, where statistically, it is probable the vehicle will either be stolen or burglarized.

DISCUSSION

The bait car is a specifically designed vehicle used to capture video evidence of suspects committing auto theft or motor vehicle burglaries, and can also be used in surveillance operations. The bait car can be stolen and driven by suspected car thieves providing officers and detectives crucial evidence needed to prosecute these crimes. The vehicle can be remotely powered down reducing the likelihood of injury to suspects and officers. By taking a proactive approach to apprehend offenders of vehicle thefts and burglaries, the department intends to curb criminal activity within the City of Santa Fe.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Santa Fe Police Department to deploy proactive tactics in an effort to identify and apprehend offenders who steal, attempt to steal and/or burglarize vehicles within the City of Santa Fe. The program will be deployed in a safe and professional manner and all officers involved in a bait car operation shall exercise caution and shall comply with all provisions of this directive.

PROCEDURE

GOAL

69.2.01 The Santa Fe Police Department will utilize innovative technology and tactics to apprehend offenders who commit auto theft,

burglary, property related crimes, and narcotics activity within the City of Santa Fe.

OBJECTIVES

69.2.02 The Santa Fe Police Department will select personnel who are properly trained in the utilization and operation of Bait Cars. By placing these vehicles in crime hot spots, officers can leave the car without surveillance and receive an alert once the vehicle is tampered with or becomes mobile. A formulated response team will then track the vehicle and attempt to apprehend offenders who are in possession of the vehicle.

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Bait Car:** An electronically equipped vehicle with a silent alarm, global positioning system, global mapping software and audio/video recording equipment. The vehicle is also equipped with a disabling feature that permits the engine to be turned off from a remote location .
- B. **Bait Car Coordinator:** The designated Bait Car Coordinator will be the Crimes Against Property Sergeant/or his/her designee. The coordinator will be assigned to supervise the program, including record keeping, vehicle deployment and maintenance of the vehicle and its related equipment.
- C. **Bait Car Operator:** The Bait Car Operator will be a trained operator as defined in this section. . The Bait Car Operator is responsible for disabling the car, communications, and overall information sharing related to the operation..
- D. **Activity and Location Logs:** The coordinator shall maintain a permanent record of the bait vehicle history. The log shall include the dates, times, locations, conditions, and duration of all deployments.
- E. **Global Positioning System (GPS):** An electronic tracking system that continuously monitors the Bait Car's position, direction of travel, speed and operating condition.
- F. **Short Term Vehicle Deployment:** A Bait Car deployment where officers keep visual surveillance on the vehicle. This deployment will not exceed a 24 hour period.

- G. **Long Term Vehicle Deployment:** The Bait Car deployment where it will be left unattended and without surveillance for a period of over 24 hours. The location of the vehicle will be monitored via technological equipment.
- H. **Bait Car Deployment Number:** Number used to identify the vehicle used in operational plans, police reports, communication and court room testimony. Each Bait Car will be issued a number to maintain integrity and confidentiality of the actual description during operations. (i.e. BC 01)
- I. **Trained Operator:** Departmental personnel who have completed a course of instruction on the basic operations, capabilities, deployment, and tactical considerations of the Bait Car.
- J. **Officer:** Any commissioned officer of the Santa Fe Police Department.

DEPLOYMENT

69.2.03 The following are procedures while deploying Bait Car during operations.

- A. The authority to deploy the Bait Car rests with the Bait Car Coordinator- after obtaining authorization from the CID Captain or Lieutenant and when an appropriate operational plan has been approved. Sworn personnel who desire deployment of the vehicle may do so with the approval of the coordinator. The coordinator will only allow personnel who have been trained in the proper operation of the equipment and have completed an appropriate operational plan to be involved in deployment operations.
- B. Prior to any short or long term deployment, the coordinator shall complete an appropriate operational plan detailing at minimum: the Bait Car location, Bait Car deployment number, personnel involved in the operation and a plan of action. This operational plan need only be approved by the coordinator and the CID Captain or Lieutenant.
- C. An After Action Report (AAR) will be generated detailing the outcome of the operation defending the outcome of any operation. The coordinator will complete the AAR and a copy will be

forwarded through the proper chain of command to the Chief's office.

RESPONSIBILITY

A. BAIT CAR DEPLOYMENT PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. During a long term deployment or at the request of the coordinator, the assigned Detective shall be responsible for monitoring the Bait Car. The assigned Detective will be trained to interpret any alarms or activations of the Bait Car systems. When the Detective's conclude the activation is valid, they shall identify the vehicle's physical location, vehicle description, license plate and where applicable, the speed and direction of travel.

B. ACTIVATION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASSIGNED BAIT CAR PERSONNEL AND RESPONDING UNITS

- a. The Bait Car Operator will contact dispatch and request at least two (2) marked units to respond to the Bait Car location. The Bait Car Operator will relay the location and pertinent information to dispatch regarding the Bait Car activation.
- b. When the Bait Car alarm is activated, two (2) officers will mobilize and proceed to the location of the Bait Car. Responding personnel will utilize a designated channel and advise dispatch once they arrive in the area.
- c. The first responding officer to make visual contact with the Bait Car shall inform the dispatcher of the location and if the vehicle is occupied.
- d. If the Bait Car is occupied, the officer shall assess if the activation of the disabling device is appropriate given the circumstances.
- e. If an officer concludes that the immediate disabling of the Bait Car would be unsafe, the officer shall follow it at a safe distance until such time that the officer determines a safe location to disable the car. The Bait Car Operator will be tasked with disabling the vehicle and communicating with responding officers.
- f. When disabling the Bait Car, the officer shall position their units for a felony stop and notify the Bait Car Operator to disable the vehicle.

- g. After it is apparent the Bait Car has lost power, the officer shall activate their emergency equipment and effect a felony stop. The offender will then be taken into custody. The Crimes Against Property Detectives will assume all Bait Car investigations.

If the Bait Car is not occupied and does not appear to have been moved from the original location, the officer shall attempt to determine if the vehicle has been entered, or if the alarm appears to be accidental. If the Bait Car has not been entered, the officer shall notify the Bait Car Operator to clear the call and rearm the vehicle. If the vehicle has been tampered with, the Bait Car Operator will be notified.

2. CONTINGENCY RESPONSIBILITY- BAIT CAR COORDINATOR

- a. As a contingency plan, the Bait Car Coordinator will contact dispatch once a bait car activation is received. This task is primarily given to the Bait Car Operator, however, due to the complexity of these operations and the possible need to disable the vehicle, this communication will serve as a secondary confirmation that at least one person with the capability to disable the vehicle is directly involved in the investigation. If no contact with dispatch has been made, the Bait Car Coordinator will assume the duties of the Bait Car Operator.

3. PURSUIT AND LOCATION OF BAIT CARS.

- a. Should an officer be directed to follow a mobile Bait Car and the suspect begins to drive in an erratic or reckless manner that places the public in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death, the officer shall immediately notify the Bait Car Operator to disable the vehicle. At no time will an officer engage in a high speed pursuit of a Bait Car. Please refer to policy Pursuit of Motor Vehicles (75.1.05) In the event the Bait Car is not located by the GPS and cannot be physically located, a stolen vehicle report will be completed immediately and the bait vehicle will be entered into N.C.I.C as stolen. The Bait Car Coordinator and Operator will be notified. All pertinent information regarding the bait vehicle will be made available by the Bait Car Operator. Crimes Against Property Detectives

will then utilize the Lo Jack system to locate the Bait Car.

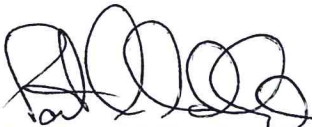
4. BAIT CAR EVIDENCE RECOVERY

- a. Following each verified recovery of a stolen Bait Car, the car will be moved to a location determined by the Bait Car Operator. To maintain confidentiality of the program and vehicle, it should only be driven by personnel in plain clothes.
- b. The Bait Car is equipped with audio and visual recording equipment to document the actions of suspects inside and outside the vehicle. The Bait Car Operator or his/her designee will be responsible for collecting all recordings and entering them into evidence.

5. CONFIDENTIALTY OF BAIT VEHICLES

- a. The Bait Car program is considered an undercover operation. All personnel shall exercise caution in order to protect the confidentiality of the program. Personnel shall never reveal the Bait Car descriptions, location of the deployment or information that may compromise the vehicles undercover status. Unauthorized disclosure of the bait car description by any personnel may be grounds for disciplinary action.

DRAFTED (jms)2016

APPROVED: 
 PATRICK GALLAGHER
 Chief of Police

DATE: 2/14/17