



**Las Cruces Police Department
GENERAL ORDERS
FIELD OPERATIONS VOLUME 2
GO-279 TEMPORARY OPERATION PERMIT
Revised 5/13/2005**

279 TEMPORARY OPERATION PERMIT – VEHICLES WITH NO INSURANCE

POLICY

In order to comply with the New Mexico Motor Vehicles statutes, the Las Cruces Police Department has instituted a procedure for allowing drivers of vehicles which were discovered to be uninsured at the time they became involved in traffic crash, and their registration plate(s) were confiscated, a temporary permit for operations of the vehicle once insurance has been obtained, prior to obtaining a new registration plate(s).

279.01 DEFINITIONS

Vehicle accident - an accident occurring on the highway, street or private property involving death, personal injury or total property damage to an apparent extent of \$500.

Vehicle - every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a street, including any frame, chassis or body of any vehicle or motor vehicle, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Temporary Operators Permit for uninsured vehicle – a sticker affixed to the vehicle as a temporary operation permit valid for 30 days. It does not permit the operator to drive uninsured for 30 days, however, does permit the operator to drive the vehicle without a license plate(s) for 30 days.

279.02 UNINSURED VEHICLES INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC CRASHES

Only uninsured vehicles involved in crashes will have their plate(s) confiscated and an “Uninsured Vehicle” sticker issued and affixed to the vehicle.

When an officer responds to a vehicle crash and determines that there is a vehicle involved in the crash which the operator has no proof of financial responsibility, the officer will:

- A. Issue the operator a citation for MANDATORY FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (NO INSURANCE).
- B. Confiscate the registration plate(s), permanently defacing the plate(s) if unable to remove.



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- C. Issue a New Mexico Temporary Operation Permit for Uninsured Vehicle.
- D. Print information on the permit in block letters legibly, using a ball point pen.
- E. Enter all available information required by captions.
- F. Affix the operator's portion of Uninsured Vehicle sticker conspicuously on the violator's vehicle, i.e., on the rear-windshield, license plate holder. Affix the duplicate portion of sticker to the confiscated registration plate the registration plate and duplicate sticker may be delivered in person to the local MVD office by the officer confiscating the plate prior to the end of his / her shift / watch, or submit the registration plate within the Evidence Section, following evidence submittal procedures.
- G. Advise the operator that once insurance has been obtained, they are to obtain a new registration plate from New Mexico MVD. If an operator of a motor vehicle, which was involved in a traffic crash had valid insurance at the time of the investigation but did not have the proof with him / her, they may retrieve their original registration plate from MVD upon production of their proof of insurance.

279.03 EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

When a registration plate has been submitted into evidence by an officer, and is identifiable as a confiscated registration plate, confiscated in accordance with the New Mexico Statutes for Uninsured Vehicles, the technician will send the registration plates and duplicate stickers to state MVD office or deliver personally to the local MVD office within 14 days.

279.04 OPERATION OF VEHICLES ON ROADWAY WITH TEMPORARY STICKERS

An officer observing a vehicle being driven on the roadway with a Temporary Uninsured Vehicle Permit sticker, has reasonable suspicion that there exists a violation of New Mexico Statutes regarding Proof of Insurance, and can stop the vehicle and verify with the operator proof of insurance. If the vehicle is uninsured, a citation will be issued regardless of the expiration date of the temporary permit. Additionally, if the permit is expired, a citation for DISPLAY OF CURRENT VALID REGISTRATION PLATE is warranted.

279.05 EXEMPT VEHICLES



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The following vehicles do not require insurance identification cards:

- A. Government owned vehicles.
- B. Taxis, buses and other rented vehicles.
- C. Certain farm vehicles, implements of husbandry, or special mobile equipment.
- D. Vehicles operating under the authority of the Public Regulatory Commission, State Corporate Commission or Inter-State Corporate Commission.
- E. Motor vehicles operated upon a street only for the purpose of crossing such street from one property to another.