

LoJack

346.1 LOJACK VEHICLE RECOVERY SYSTEM

The LoJack Tracking System is a stolen vehicle locator system, which allows law enforcement agencies to find stolen vehicles equipped with the LoJack transmitter. The transmitter is activated remotely by LoJack once the vehicle is reported stolen to law enforcement and entered into the METERS/NCIC System. The transmitter sends a signal that can be received by any LoJack equipped police vehicle. The LoJack receiver will provide the deputy with the direction of the stolen vehicle relative to the police vehicle, and give a five-digit reply code that will identify the vehicle.

346.2 PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedures for the operation of the LoJack vehicle recovery system.

To establish operational guidelines, notification and reporting procedures.

To establish training and maintenance procedures.

346.3 POLICY

Upon receiving a report of a stolen LoJack equipped vehicle, the appropriate information will be entered into METERS/NCIC through routine procedures. This stolen vehicle entry in METERS/NCIC will automatically activate the LoJack system in the stolen vehicle.

When a signal is received from an activated LoJack, the deputy will first assess the identifier and ensure that the identifier is not indicative of a training unit (a reply code that starts with three zeros "000" indicates this is a training unit).

Once the identifier is verified as emanating from a stolen vehicle, the deputy will notify the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) and request verifications of the five-character identifier through the appropriate METERS query. ECC will then provide the deputy with a complete description of the stolen vehicle, based on the METERS/NCIC and stolen vehicle identifier returns.

Once the stolen vehicle is observed, all procedures governing vehicle pursuits will be strictly adhered to. No exceptions to the policy will be made simply due to the LoJack hit.

If a LoJack hit leads into a neighboring jurisdiction, ECC will contact that jurisdiction to advise them of the track and vehicle description.

- (a) If the signal strength indicator indicates that the vehicle is nearby, the deputy shall coordinate his or her efforts with the neighboring jurisdiction until relieved by the neighboring jurisdiction's police vehicle, equipped with tracking equipment, or until the stolen vehicle is located and recovered.
- (b) If the signal strength indicates the vehicle is not nearby, the neighboring jurisdiction will be provided with the vehicle description and the last known direction of the vehicle.
- (c) Continuation of vehicle tracks into neighboring jurisdictions will be at the discretion of a supervisor.

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

LE Policy Manual

LoJack

If another jurisdiction tracks a stolen vehicle into St. Mary's County, a supervisor should attempt to have an agency LoJack equipped vehicle assume the track. If no agency LoJack equipped vehicles are available, and the other jurisdiction wishes to continue the track, the supervisor will monitor the tracking and assign deputies to assist, if possible.

When a deputy LoJack equipped vehicle receives a LoJack reply code indicating the detection of a stolen vehicle, the deputy will immediately notify ECC and provide the reply code, their location, and status of the LoJack hit.

Every deputy initiating a vehicle theft report shall ask the complainant if the vehicle is equipped with the LoJack system. A positive response shall be noted in the narrative of the report. Regardless, deputies will follow all established procedures for notifying the Station Clerk of a stolen vehicle report, so the vehicle can be entered into METERS/NCIC.

The investigating deputy shall ensure that the vehicle information is immediately entered into the METERS/NCIC regardless if a vehicle is equipped with LoJack. Deputies need to keep in mind that a stolen vehicle equipped with LoJack will not be activated until the METERS/NCIC entry is made through METERS/NCIC.

When the stolen vehicle is recovered, it will be necessary to deactivate the LoJack signal. This will be accomplished by immediately sending a vehicle recovery NCIC message. When this information is entered into METERS/NCIC, the radio signal will deactivate. This process will be the responsibility of the Station Clerk once they are notified by a deputy of the stolen vehicle recovery. This notification to the Station Clerk and the vehicle recovery NCIC entry will be made as soon as possible. The deputy shall note in the offense report that the vehicle recovery was a result of utilizing LoJack.

346.4 TRAINING

Deputies assigned to a vehicle equipped with a LoJack vehicle recovery system must be trained in the use of the LoJack system and will not operate a LoJack system prior to successfully completing the required training. Deputies operating a vehicle equipped with the LoJack system, but who lack the training in its operation, will not utilize the system in any way.

Training will be provided by personnel from the LoJack Corporation.

346.5 EQUIPMENT

LoJack equipment consists of the control head, tracking computer, and antenna system.

The LoJack Corporation is solely responsible for the installation, maintenance, and removal of the equipment for Departmental vehicles. The Fleet and Radio Communications Coordinator and the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division (or designee) will coordinate all aspects of the LoJack installation and maintenance as it relates to Departmental vehicles.

Employees are not permitted to install, remove, or perform maintenance on any LoJack equipment.

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

LE Policy Manual

LoJack

LoJack equipment will not be installed, removed, or transferred to another vehicle without prior authorization from the Fleet and Radio Communications Coordinator, who will coordinate activities with the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division (or designee).

The Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division (or designee) and the Fleet and Radio Communications Coordinator will be notified immediately if a LoJack equipped vehicle is placed out-of-service or needs repair.