

CAL FIRE Butte Unit
Policies and Procedures



Approved By:


Darren Read, Unit Chief

Approval Date: **June 9, 2016**

Subject: **8100 Command & Control**
Specific Subject: **8130.080 Lock Out Dispatch**

Original Policy Date: **January 2010**
Revision Date: **April 2016**

POLICY:

Fire Department Units will be dispatched to reported locked vehicles in the following situations, which may be “emergencies”:

- Person(s) locked in vehicle that is incapable of unlocking the vehicle and is in immediate danger due to heat or other medical condition.
- Pet(s) locked in a closed vehicle without air conditioning.
- Vehicle locked and running **INSIDE** of a closed structure producing a hazardous atmosphere. Note: A vehicle in a garage with the garage door up would not be a hazardous situation, unless there is evidence of overheating.
- Other situation where the locked condition of the vehicle is an obvious threat to the safety of persons or property.

PROCEDURE:

Upon receipt of a reported lockout, the ECC shall determine if the situation meets the criteria for an “emergency” as listed in above policy. An “inconvenience” is not an emergency and being “late to work”, “late to a ball game”, etc. are not to be considered emergencies by fire or ECC personnel.

- A. If a true emergency exists, the call will be dispatched following standard communication procedures. The dispatched engine company will respond Code-3. If the call information reports a child (or non-ambulatory person, etc.) locked in a vehicle, in direct sunlight and the vehicle is **NOT** running, a medic unit will be dispatched.
- B. The ECC will use the phrase, “Hazardous Condition, Vehicle Lockout” or “Medical, Vehicle Lockout” (when a person is suffering possible heat stress inside the vehicle).
- C. If the call is **NOT** an emergency, the caller will be:
 - 1. Advised that the Fire Department lockout policy precludes entry assistance in non-emergency situations.
 - 2. Advised of our willingness to contact a tow company or locksmith on their behalf, from the “yellow pages”, which will be at their expense, or to provide them with the telephone number of a tow company or locksmith that can assist them.
- D. If it cannot be determined whether or not an emergency exists, Fire Department personnel will be dispatched and will respond to make an “on-scene” determination of the appropriateness of forcible entry.