

# WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## SOP 4.34

**Date Issued: 12/27/2019**

**Review: 03/05/2021**

[Note: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Wolfeboro Police Department and, as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.]

**By Order of:**  
**Dean J. Rondeau, Chief of Police**

### STOLEN VEHICLES

**Policy** To maintain a departmental priority on vehicle thefts and recovery.

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**Purpose** The purpose of this directive is to cover the following:  
Definitions Investigation

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**Definitions** *Joy Riding* – taking of a motor vehicle without the authority of the owner, often these vehicles are damaged before being abandoned. Youthful offenders who take a vehicle for quick transportation, for racing or thrills are the principle perpetrators.

*Stripping* – Theft of a vehicle for the purpose of removing parts and accessories for personal use or sale.

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**Investigation** The following questions should be asked or considered when taking a report:

1	Where was the vehicle parked
2	Was it locked
3	What time was it last seen
4	Who was the last person to use it
5	Is it possible that an authorized person is using it
6	Is it possible the vehicle was misplaced (parked in another area)
7	Is it possible that the vehicle is being reported falsely for the owner or operator to escape liability for a crime (hit & run)
8	Has the vehicle been towed or repossessed
9	The loan company and what is the balance
10	Insurance company, agent and policy number

**SOP 4.34**  
**Stolen Vehicles**

11	Special identifying characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unusual or unique markings</li><li>• Bumper sticker</li><li>• Previous damage</li><li>• Special accessories that have been installed</li></ul>
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**Recognition**

Stolen vehicles is a skill that can be acquired. Special attention should be directed to the driver, rather than just observing a vehicle.

Officers should consider the following:

- Reckless driver or traffic violator
  - The overly cautious driver.
  - The driver that does not seem familiar with the vehicle
  - Driver that appears out of place for the vehicle they are driving.
  - Any extremes of driver behavior or unusual reaction of passenger.
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**Stops**

Officers should use caution and follow SOP's guidelines on vehicular stops..

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**Recovery**

Follow guidelines of Evidence SOP's