



Motorist Services

Fast Facts



FSP, SAFE & SAAV

FSP

The Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) assists stranded motorists on Orange County freeways and highways. FSP is



a congestion management component within the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) program. The FSP program began in 1992, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

The goal of the FSP program is to reduce traffic congestion by quickly removing disabled vehicles and those involved in minor accidents from freeways. FSP tow trucks help get stranded motorists back on the road with a jump start, a gallon of gas, by changing a flat tire or repairing a cooling system hose. All services are free and help keep busy freeways moving. FSP tow trucks operate during peak traffic periods and during midday hours along Orange County freeways.

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) manages the FSP program. The CHP provides dispatch and field services whenever law enforcement is required.

FSP Funding

Caltrans implemented the statewide FSP program and developed the corresponding Local Funding Allocation Plan to distribute

funds to all jurisdictions with an FSP program. In addition to the funding allocation plan, Caltrans requires all local FSPs to provide a 25 percent match.

SAFE

The SAFE program pioneered the implementation of an emergency telephone network on our major roadways. This network consists of solar-powered cellular telephone call boxes at one-half mile intervals along freeways, highways, toll roads and expressways in most densely populated regions of California. The call boxes allow a motorist to report road hazards, mechanical breakdowns, traffic accidents and other incidents to a private call answer center.

The first SAFE call box program in California was established in Orange County. Today, our county call box system is the fourth largest in the state. The system began operation in 1987. The approximately 645 call boxes are equipped with full two-way communication by voice and by typewritten message to assist speech- and hearing-impaired individuals.

OCTA administers and installs all call boxes in Orange County. OCTA also maintains the call box system within the county.

SAAV

The Service Authority for Abandoned Vehicles (SAAV) handles unsightly abandoned vehicles along local streets. The Orange County SAAV program was established in 1991 and was the first program of its kind in California.

Abandoned vehicles can create hazardous conditions for pedestrians and motorists, and in some instances, increase traffic congestion. Thanks to the SAAV program, abandoned vehicles and any associated problems are both removed. The SAAV program removes approximately 1,000 abandoned vehicles from local Orange County streets and roads each year.

SAFE and SAAV Funding

The SAFE and SAAV programs are funded by a \$1 annual fee on each vehicle registration collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles. OCTA allocates funds received for the SAAV program to all 34 cities and to the County of Orange for unincorporated areas.

Annual program costs are limited to the amount of revenue collected from vehicle registration fees and any interest earned.