

Town of Lake Lure Water Vessel Towing and Transporting of Stranded Vessel Occupants Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the towing of disabled water vessels and transporting of stranded vessel occupants.

Policy

The Lake Lure Police Department will only tow water vessels that are the property of the Town of Lake Lure and water vessels that are found adrift on the lake with no occupants. If a boat is found adrift, the officer will first make an attempt to contact the owner. If the officer is unable to locate the owner, then in the best interest of public safety the boat will be towed to the safest location. The Lake Lure Police Department will not tow any privately owned water vessels that are occupied. In case of emergencies or exigent circumstances which are of a life or death nature, the Lake Lure Police Department will transport occupants of a disabled vessel from their vessel to a safe area. The Lake Lure Fire Department will be dispatched to assist on all emergency transports of occupants from disabled vessels.

Transportation of Occupants

All occupants to be transported will be required to wear a Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Officers will then identify if the vessel has an anchoring system. If so, the system will be deployed. If there is no anchoring system in place, one will be provided for them. All occupant(s) will be seated safely before the Lake Lure Police Patrol Boat (Patrol Boat) begins acceleration. The officer should make all attempts to seat occupants immediately upon boarding the Patrol Boat. Once occupant(s) are safely seated, the Patrol Boat may begin the transport to a safe location (i.e. dock, pier, etc.). The Officer will verify that the Patrol Boat is secured to the dock or pier prior to occupants standing. Once the security of the Patrol Boat is verified occupants may stand and with assistance, exit the Patrol Boat to the safe location.

Waiver of Liability (Release)

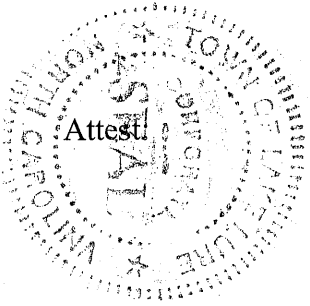
A waiver will be signed by each individual or guardian/caretaker being transported prior to being transported if the emergency situation allows time for this to be completed prior to the occupants of the disabled vessel boarding the Patrol Boat. If time does not allow for this to take place prior to boarding the Patrol Boat, the waiver should be signed as soon as it is safe to do so. Signed waivers will be filed with the Lake Lure Police Department and remain on file for one full year.

Logging of Transport

Officers will log times of transport and the number of souls on the Patrol Boat, the safe location address or description of location. Officer will enter the information of the transport on their Daily Activity Report. Officers will also note on the Daily Activity Report the description of the vessel and the location where the vessel was left.


Effective date

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2020.





Carol C. Pritchett, Mayor



Michelle Jolley, Town Clerk