

Game day parking continues to be a problem for police despite expanded efforts to bus remote fans to the stadium. Common parking violations often cited by police include the following:

1. Parking on the yellow curb
2. Parking in the Fire Lane
3. Parking in Handicapped Parking spaces
4. Parking that blocks sidewalks
5. Parking that blocks driveways
6. Parking that block narrow streets
7. Parking RV's on city streets
8. Parking in designated "No Parking On Gameday Zones"

Vehicles parked on yellow curbs are often towed on game day because they impede designated bus routes. Officers commonly find this problem at 12th Street and 12th Ave. Citizens with disabilities often alert officers to vehicles parked on sidewalks that impede their ability to maneuver. This problem is commonly the result of property owners parking cars in their front yard. Fans should also avoid parking on narrow streets. Cars parked on narrow streets that block normal traffic flow may have to be removed to allow for the safe passage of Emergency Response Vehicles.

Recreational Vehicles are not allowed to park on any city street. RV's owners are to park in the designated lots on campus. Fans should avoid parking in the "No Parking On Gameday Zones." Officers typically find this problem on University Blvd in the strip area and on 12th Street behind Tutwiler Dorms. Although, police view towing as a last resort to solve these problems it is often necessary on game day due to time constraints and sheer volume of violations.

Fans parking on private property can be subject to non-consensual towing by the property owner provided they the requirements of Sec 21-80. Removal of trespassing motor vehicles.

"Sec. 21-80. - Removal of trespassing motor vehicles.

(a) The owner, operator, or lessee, or authorized agent thereof, of any property, may have any vehicle occupying the property without the permission of its owner, operator, lessee, or authorized agent thereof, removed by towing to a storage facility until reclaimed by the owner or his agent provided the provisions of this chapter are complied with, as well as the following:

(1) Signs shall be posted and affixed on the property and located in prominent and conspicuous locations so as to provide clear and legible notification that vehicles parked without permission will be towed.

a. For parking areas connected to a public street, signs shall be placed prominently and conspicuously at such entrance within five (5) feet of the public right-of-way line. If more than one entrance or curb cut exists from the same street frontage, signs may be posted at the farthest distance between the street entrance or curb cut.

b. For parking areas that are connected to the public right-of-way without

intervening curbs or other access barriers and directly in front of or abutting one or more buildings, signs shall be placed at both ends of the parking area and either attached to the building or posted at intervals in the parking area at a distance of fifty (50) feet or less.

c. For parking areas which do not conform nor meet the configurations described in subsections a. and b., property owners may consult with the Tuscaloosa Police Department to determine appropriate locations for signage as described herein.

d. Signs shall be posted and affixed to buildings on the property and at such locations thereon which clearly, conspicuously and legibly disclose and identify that any such vehicle parked without permission on said property will be towed.

e. The notice shall also provide the name and current telephone number of the person or firm towing or removing the vehicles, if the property owner, lessor, or person in control of the property has a written contract with a wrecker service.

f. The sign shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area and must be light reflective. The notice shall clearly indicate, in not less than two-inch-high letters on a contrasting background, that unauthorized vehicles will be towed away at the owner's expense. The words "tow away zone" shall be included on the sign in not less than four-inch-high letters.

g. The sign structure containing the required notices shall be permanently installed with the bottom of the sign not less than four (4) feet above ground level, and be continuously maintained on the property for not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the towing or removal of any vehicles.

h. Where parking for residential or multifamily properties are immediately adjacent to parking for commercial or retail properties where no distinguishing barriers or identification for the respective parking exists, the property owners shall take such reasonable measure to identify each such adjoining parking space as restricted parking for their tenants or clientele.

(2) The foregoing requirement for signs shall not apply on any parcel of property used at the time of removal for one single-family residence or one two-family residence; and provided further, however, that parking spaces parallel to or at an angle to a public street and entered directly from a public street shall be deemed to be providing signs properly when the signs are placed along the sidewalk (or in a similar location when there is no sidewalk) adjacent to the space or row of spaces and there is at least one of the signs required by this chapter within forty feet of each such space.

(3) The towing and recovery operator performing the tow shall comply with the following:

a. Authorization of the owner, operator, or lessee of the property from which the vehicle is towed, or the authorized agent thereof. For the purposes of this subsection, "authorized agent" shall not include a representative of the towing and recovery operator.

b. The tow operator shall receive a signed authorization from the property owner or their agent prior to the towing of the vehicle and the property owner or their agent must also be present when the vehicle is towed.

c. Prior to performing the tow, the tow operator shall contact the Tuscaloosa Police Department and inform the department of the removal of the vehicle providing the Department with the following information if visible and present on the vehicle, vehicle identification number (VIN), license plate number, decal number and year. In addition, the make, model, year, color and location from where the vehicle is towed and the location of where the vehicle is to be towed is also to be provided.

d. The towing and recovery operator, and the owner, operator, or lessee of the property, shall maintain for public inspection at its business offices, and at the property, respectively, copies of all documents which authorized the operator to tow any motor vehicle from the property.

(4) The owner, operator, lessee or authorized agent of the property shall obtain and retain the following:

a. Photographs or videos of the vehicle in the location from which the vehicle is being towed;

b. Photographs or videos of the condition of the vehicle prior to the tow; and

c. To the extent available, other documentary evidence substantiating the reason for the removal.”

Fans returning to the area where they parked after the game usually discover their vehicle missing and contact police to report it stolen. The Tuscaloosa Police Department requires all wrecker companies to submit notification of private property tows to the Communications Division. Fans that find themselves a participant of a non-consensual tow should contact police to determine the location of their vehicle. All Private Property (Non-consensual tows) are \$160.00 dollars per vehicle.

Fans are encouraged to park in designated parking spaces on city streets. Parking on city streets is free as long as the space is authorized. Fans should not pay for parking on any city street. Anyone that is levied a fee for parking on a city street should contact police immediately.

As always, please think twice before parking in an open area or space. If it looks too good to be true it probably is on game days. Remember to check for yellow curbs, signage, driveways, sidewalks, and fire hydrants.