

The Santa Clara Police Department Community Response

The Santa Clara Police Department interacts with individuals who are unhoused or experiencing different forms of homelessness such as living in hotels, in their vehicle, or in homeless encampments.

The Santa Clara Police Community Response Team and Crisis Intervention Specialists work with a variety of service providers that may assist people experiencing homelessness. If you come in contact with a person experiencing homelessness and they are interested in services, please contact a Community Response Team member with detailed information on the subject (pictures aid in identification) so we can arrange for services.

Contact Us

Santa Clara Police Dept.
601 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Non-Emergency Dispatch Line
408-615-5580
www.scpd.org

Community Response Team
(for non-emergency contact number)
408-615-4745

Santa Clara Police Dept.

601 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Santa Clara Police Department

Response to Persons Who Are Displaced, Experiencing Homelessness, or Unsheltered



What Officers Can Do

* Trespassing on private property –

If a subject unlawfully trespasses on private property, officers will be dispatched to assess the situation. The property owner must desire prosecution for trespassing before officers take any type of enforcement action.

* **Abandoned vehicles** – Officers will mark tires and place a warning on the vehicle regarding the violation. If the vehicle is not moved within 72 hours, the vehicle can be cited. If the vehicle is not moved within ten days, the vehicle can be towed.

* **Aggressive panhandling** – Officers can enforce aggressive panhandling (647(c) PC) for a subject who willfully & maliciously obstructs the free movement of any person in any public place) if the victim wants prosecution.

* **Community Response Team** can assist, guide, and refer unhoused subjects to service providers

What Officers Can't Do

* **Camping on public property/RV parking** – Federal courts ruled that cities cannot prosecute individuals as an unavoidable consequence of being homeless (unless alternative shelter is available). This includes sleeping/living in a vehicle, motorhome, trailer, or on public land.

* **Panhandling** – Asking for money is not illegal and is protected under the 1st amendment.

* **Camping or sleeping in creeks/railways/bus stops** – The creeks, railways, and bus stops in Santa Clara are privately owned by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Union Pacific Railway, or VTA. The property owner must request enforcement action for trespassing prior to any law enforcement action.

What You Can Do

* If there's an emergency please dial 9-1-1.

* If there is not an emergency please call **408-615-5580** to report illegal activities.

* Encampments (private property) –

If you notice an encampment on private property (i.e. private parking lot, construction site, embankment or railways) and you're not the property owner, please contact the Santa Clara Police Department Community Response Team (CRT) **408-615-4745**. The CRT will locate the property owner and inform them of the encampment.

* Encampments (government property) –

If you notice an encampment on property owned by other government agencies (i.e. creek, school, freeway or bus stop), please contact the appropriate government agency listed in the "Resources" section.

* **Property owners** – There are several things you can do to deter encampments;

- Post signage on your property forbidding and prosecuting trespassing
- Keep property well lit and secure
- Keep property clean of debris
- Avoid overgrown foliage
- Contact CRT for advice and to enforce trespass laws

* **Abandoned vehicles** – Contact the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program (AVA) hotline at **408-615-4778** or log on to:

www.SantaClaraCA.gov/AbandonedVehicles

Learn More!

The Police Department has created a website to include timely information related to its response to our unhoused residents at www.SantaClaraCA.gov/HomelessResponse

Resources

* **Union Pacific** – Report encampments or dumping near railways. **888-877-7267**

* **Santa Clara Valley Water District** – Report encampments, dumping, trash, or hazardous materials on their website (<https://www.valleywater.org/AVWapp>) or download their smartphone app.

* **Caltrans (Division of Maintenance)** – Report encampments, dumping, or trash on their website (<https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>).

* **Santa Clara Sheriff Transit Patrol** – Non-emergency line to report encampments or dumping at bus stops. **408-299-2311**

* **Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing** – Locate affordable housing for extremely low income and/or special needs households. **408-278-6400**
(www.sccgov.org/sites/osh)

* **Abode Services** – Conducts outreach and housing for homeless. **510-657-7409**
(<https://www.abodeservices.org/>)

* **Housing Trust Silicon Valley** – Helps individuals/families moving into Silicon Valley obtain permanent housing. **408-703-3837**

* **Emergency Bed Hotline (United Way Bay Area)** – Information and assistance with basic needs, child/elder care, employment, health services, immigration, counseling, and opportunities to volunteer. **800-273-6222**

* **Santa Clara Unified School District (Maintenance, Grounds, & Operations)** – Responsible for grounds & maintenance.
<https://www.santaclarausd.org/Domain/2228>