



Thursday, February 17, 2000

New truck to help people with car trouble on campus

If you're on the Oakland University campus and you've got a problem with your vehicle, OU has a new truck that can come to your rescue quicker than towing services. And the price is right — service from the EMVAT, or Emergency Motor Vehicle Assistance Truck, is free.

The OU Police Department (OUPD) recently acquired a 1999 GMC four-wheel-drive pickup truck to meet the need on campus for jump-starts, help changing flat tires and a little gas for empty tanks. Cadets drive the golden Grizzmobile, as it's nicknamed, around campus to deter crime and to help students, faculty, staff and visitors.

"The EMVAT is part of our continuing effort to make the campus safe and provide more services to the OU community," said OUPD director Dick Leonard. "The extra patrol vehicle reassures the OU community members so that they feel safer."

Cadets patrolling in the truck are also available to escort students or staff to their cars in the evening. "We recommend that people on campus walk with somebody in the evening, but if nobody else is available, the cadets are glad to help," said OUPD Lieutenant Mel Gilroy.

EMVAT service is for anyone on campus; users do not have to show campus identification.

The truck also saves steps for cadets and provides them practical experience as they pursue careers in law enforcement. About eight cadets work in paid positions for the OUPD each semester, acting as extra eyes and ears. Sergeant Allen Steele Jr. and Officer Early Alexander supervise the cadets.

For EMVAT help daily, noon-midnight, September through April, call 3331 or get the attention of the cadets on patrol.

SUMMARY

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