



TOW TRUCK BANDITS



Warning! Predatory tow truck operators target car crash victims, then hold the vehicles hostage for cash.

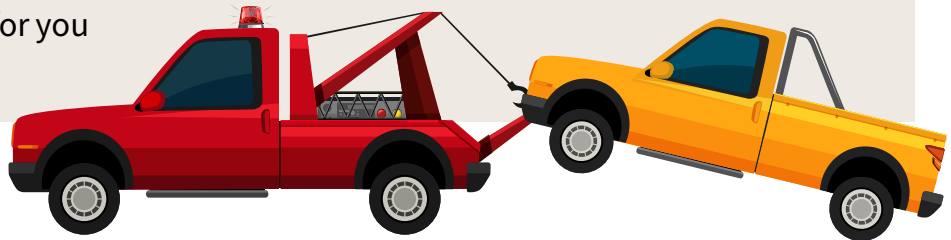
LADA warns drivers about a criminal scheme in which “tow truck bandits” listen to radio traffic and race to the scene of an auto collision, then convince the drivers to let them tow their vehicle to a repair facility. Afterwards they will charge excessive storage fees and repair costs before returning the car to the victims, essentially holding the vehicles hostage for cash.

The criminals often falsely claim to be affiliated with insurance, police or local government.

If you're involved in a car accident, be suspicious of tow trucks that show up within minutes of a collision. This might be a scam.

Watch out for these **red flags** associated with tow truck bandits:

- 🚩 The tow truck shows up before you called the police
- 🚩 The driver insists on towing your car to a specific body shop
- 🚩 The driver requests a rideshare for you



Protect Yourself

- ✅ Wait for police to arrive at the scene before agreeing to have your vehicle towed
- ✅ If you are told that there will be no police response, ask whether anyone from the police agency called a tow truck for you and if so, which company
- ✅ Verify the tow truck company with your insurance or the California Highway Patrol
- ✅ Do not sign any documents until you have spoken with your insurance company

Report Tow Truck Fraud

Report suspected tow truck fraud to local law enforcement or the California Department of Insurance at (800) 927-4357 or online at insurance.ca.gov.