What is a Junk Vehicle?

According to RCW 46.55.010, a “Junk vehicle” means a vehicle certified under RCW 46.55.230:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any law enforcement officer having jurisdiction, or any employee or officer of a jurisdictional health department acting pursuant to RCW 70A.205.195, or any person authorized by the director shall inspect and may authorize the disposal of an abandoned junk vehicle. The person making the inspection shall record the make and vehicle identification number or license number of the vehicle if available and shall also verify that the approximate value of the junk vehicle is equivalent only to the approximate value of the parts. And as meeting at least three of the following requirements:

1. Is three years old or older.
2. Is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited to any of the following: A broken window or windshield, or missing wheels, tires, motor, or transmission.
3. Is apparently inoperable.
4. Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the approximate value of the scrap in it.

*It is recommended to photograph the vehicle prior to any repair and/or removal. Please bring these photographs to your inspection.

What Can I Do With a Junk Vehicle (Not Owned by Me) Abandoned on My Property?

According to RCW 46.55.230, an authorized law enforcement officer (or other certified official) may inspect and authorize the disposal of an abandoned junk vehicle (WSP VIN Officers do not normally provide this service). Use the Junk Vehicle Affidavit provided by the Washington State Department of Licensing to facilitate the removal of a junk vehicle from your property or to claim ownership. Contact your local licensing agent if you intend to retitle this vehicle and operate it after completion of repairs.

A Junk Vehicle Affidavit (JVA) issued by any member of law enforcement or other governmental employee does not guarantee a title being issued. The VIN officer will scrutinize the JVA. Your vehicle will not pass inspection if the JVA is not fully completed or if the vehicle does not meet the requirements listed above.