



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1860
TOPIC: TRAFFIC CONTROL
ISSUED BY: JEFF BLIEMEISTER, CHIEF OF POLICE
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SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1860, 2005
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

Special events and temporary traffic hazards may create a need for manual traffic direction by department employees. Manual direction will help to ensure the smooth and efficient flow of motorist traffic.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Manual traffic direction may be necessary in the following instances:

1. At the scene of traffic accidents;
2. During periods of adverse road and weather conditions;
3. Sport and special events;
4. Signal malfunctions;
5. Fire or medical emergencies;
6. Disabled vehicles or other roadway hazards.

B. Traffic Direction Guidelines

1. Employees will utilize uniform hand gestures and signals, as instructed in department training.
2. High visibility outerwear shall be worn whenever manual traffic direction is required, unless exigent circumstances prevent immediate wearing of such gear.
3. Temporary traffic control devices such as traffic cones, flares, and barricades may be used to supplement manual traffic direction if the safety of employees and motorists is not compromised.
4. Supervisors may modify the pattern of an automatic signal by placing it on "flash" mode. Automatic signals may also be manually operated to enhance traffic flow during special events.
5. Employees assigned to direct traffic should not leave their assignment until the traffic flow has returned to normal, or directed by a supervisor.

C. Motorist Assists

1. Officers encountering stranded motorists shall stop and offer assistance when able, to include:
 - a. Protecting the disabled vehicle by using emergency lights to warn oncoming motorists;
 - b. Directing traffic to relieve congestion;
 - c. Contacting towing services;
 - d. Assisting the motorist in arranging for transportation;
 - e. Summoning emergency services when necessary.
2. Officers shall not use police vehicles for towing, pushing, or jump starting disabled vehicles.
3. Officers should not attempt to physically push vehicles.

D. Escort Services

1. Motor vehicle escorts may be performed under the following circumstances:
 - a. Hazardous materials;
 - b. Oversize/overweight cargoes;
 - c. House moving;
 - d. Organized special events;
 - e. VIP motorcades;
 - f. High-profile funerals.
2. Escorts may also be performed in other circumstances when approved by a command officer.