



2-43 ROADBLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

- 2-1 Uniforms (Formerly 2-06)
- 2-8 Use of On-Body Recording Devices (Formerly 1-39)
- 2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle (Formerly 2-55)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

City of Las Cruces v. Betancourt, 1987-NMCA-039, 735 P.2d 1161.

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-43-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) in the planning and use of roadblocks and checkpoints.

2-43-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to use roadblocks when reasonably necessary to detour motorists from hazardous roadway conditions, for selective traffic enforcement, to prevent the escape of a felon(s) from a contained area, and to stop the driver of a vehicle attempting to avoid apprehension after all other means have failed.

N/A 2-43-3 Definitions

A. Checkpoint

A planned enforcement activity targeting a specific violation and where vehicles are stopped and drivers are contacted.

B. Roadblock

1. An intentional emergency obstruction of traffic for the safety of the community. The two types of roadblocks are:



- a. Class A Roadblock: To stop traffic with portable signs and warning devices without physically blocking the roadway; and
- b. Class B Roadblock: The physical blocking of the roadway with lightweight materials and/or equipment that will cause little or no damage to a vehicle with four (4) or more wheels when struck (i.e., lightweight barricade devices, flares, pylons, etc.). Due care and caution must be considered for two-wheeled and three-wheeled vehicles (e.g., motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, trike) when physically blocking a roadway with any material.

2-43-4 Procedures

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A. Roadblock Classifications

1. Sworn personnel may use:
 - a. A Class A Roadblock to inspect individuals and vehicles in the event of jail/prison escapes, major felony investigations; and
 - b. A Class B Roadblock to warn motorists of severe road conditions due to inclement weather, or to reroute traffic due to special events, traffic accidents, or crime scenes.
2. Sworn personnel are prohibited from seizing a tractor-trailer or other such vehicle.

B. Roadblock Sites

1. Sworn personnel shall select the site of a roadblock:
 - a. To ensure the safety of motorists and to ensure it is convenient when stopping motorists; and
 - b. Based on a reasonable location, such as:
 - i. Physically divided roadways or raised medians;
 - ii. Away from a blind curve or hill; and
 - iii. A predesignated area so motorists are safely moved off the roadway, such as a parking lot for tow trucks and/or for officers to further their investigation.

C. Initiating a Roadblock

1. Sworn supervisory personnel shall decide whether to initiate a roadblock based on:
 - a. The seriousness of the crime;
 - b. Sufficient information and description on the wanted individuals or vehicles; and
 - c. The elapsed time between the criminal act and its discovery.

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D. Checkpoint Criteria

1. Sworn personnel at the rank of sergeant or above shall be responsible for the site selection and procedures for conducting a checkpoint.



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N/A

2. Sworn personnel shall not randomly stop motorists.
 - a. Sworn personnel shall use a pre-established method of selection when determining which motorists to stop.
 - b. Sworn personnel shall establish uniform procedures when interacting with each motorist in precisely the same manner.
 - i. However, with approval from their chain of command, sworn personnel shall have the discretion to determine whether to pursue a motorist who avoids the checkpoint by committing a separate traffic violation, consistent with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle (refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties).
3. Sworn supervisory personnel shall consider which safety measures shall be used for warning approaching traffic, the degree to which the checkpoint causes traffic congestion, and whether the checkpoint places other motorists and sworn personnel at risk.

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4. Sworn personnel shall not select a checkpoint location to target motorists within specific racial or ethnic groups.
5. Sworn supervisory personnel shall select a reasonable time and duration for the checkpoint; therefore, sworn personnel shall not make a checkpoint excessively long.
6. The official nature of the checkpoint shall be immediately apparent.

N/A

- a. Sworn personnel shall be uniformed and shall wear a reflective police vest or jacket, consistent with SOP Uniforms (refer to SOP Uniforms for sanction classifications and additional duties);
 - b. Police vehicles shall be highly visible and marked;
 - c. Sworn personnel shall use warning or stop signs and pylons;
 - d. Sworn personnel shall post checkpoint signs; and
 - e. Sworn personnel may use flares.
7. Sworn personnel shall minimize the average length of time a motorist is detained at the checkpoint and the degree of intrusiveness.
 - a. When an officer develops reasonable suspicion to further an investigation, they shall direct the motorist to pull into a pre-determined area, out of traffic, except;
 - i. During a sobriety checkpoint, when an officer develops reasonable suspicion to further an investigation, the officer shall have the driver exit the vehicle; and
 - ii. Sworn or PSA personnel, assigned to the checkpoint, will move the vehicle to a pre-determined location, out of traffic.



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8. Sworn supervisory personnel shall give advance notice to the public on selective traffic enforcement to enhance deterrence.
 - a. Sworn supervisory personnel responsible for the checkpoint shall email the notice to media outlets.
9. Sworn personnel shall have their On-Body Recording Device (OBRD) in buffer mode for the duration of the checkpoint
 - a. Sworn personnel shall activate their OBRD upon asking a driver to exit their vehicle to conduct an investigation; or during any incident that would otherwise be required pursuant to SOP Use of On-Body Recording Devices; and
 - b. Sworn personnel or PSA personnel shall activate their OBRD when driving a vehicle out of the roadway

E. Authorization for Checkpoints

1. The Metro Traffic Division Commander or their designee shall approve all sobriety and traffic enforcement checkpoints submitted by a sergeant.
2. In all cases, only supervisory personnel at the rank of sergeant or above shall be in charge of the checkpoint.



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B. Form(s)

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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

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- a. Class A Roadblock: To stop traffic with portable signs and warning devices without physically blocking the roadway; and
- b. Class B Roadblock: The physical blocking of the roadway with lightweight materials and/or equipment that will cause little or no damage to a vehicle with four (4) or more wheels when struck (i.e., lightweight barricade devices, flares, pylons, etc.). Due care and caution must be considered for two-wheeled and three-wheeled vehicles (e.g., motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, trike) when physically blocking a roadway with any material; and

2-43-4 Procedures

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A. Roadblock Classifications

1. Sworn personnel may use:
 - a. A Class A Roadblock to inspect individuals and vehicles in the event of jail/prison escapes, major felony investigations, ~~and DWI detection, and enforcement of the Traffic Code;~~ and
 - b. A Class B Roadblock to warn motorists of severe road conditions due to inclement weather, or to reroute traffic due to special events, traffic accidents, or crime scenes.
2. Sworn personnel are prohibited from seizing a ~~tractor trailer~~ tractor-trailer or another such vehicle.

B. Roadblock Sites

1. Sworn personnel shall select the site of a roadblock:
 - a. To ensure the safety of motorists and to ensure it is convenient when stopping motorists; and
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D. Checkpoint Criteria



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1. ~~Supervisory sworn~~ Sworn personnel at the rank of sergeant or above shall be responsible for the site selection and procedures for conducting a ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint.

N/A

2. Sworn personnel shall not randomly stop motorists.

a. Sworn personnel shall use a pre-established method of selection when determining which motorists to stop.

b. Sworn personnel shall establish uniform procedures when interacting with each motorist in precisely the same manner.

i. However, with approval from their chain of command, sworn personnel shall have the discretion to determine whether to pursue a motorist who avoids the checkpoint by committing a separate traffic violation, consistent with SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle (refer to SOP Pursuit by Motor Vehicle for sanction classifications and additional duties).

3. Sworn supervisory personnel shall consider which safety measures shall be used for warning approaching traffic, the degree to which the ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint causes traffic congestion, and whether the ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint places other motorists and sworn personnel at risk.

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4. Sworn personnel shall not select a ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint location to target motorists within specific racial or ethnic groups.

5. Sworn supervisory personnel shall select a reasonable time and duration for the ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint; therefore, sworn personnel shall not make a ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint excessively long.

6. The official nature of the ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint shall be immediately apparent.

N/A

a. Sworn personnel shall be uniformed and shall wear a reflective police vest or jacket, consistent with SOP Uniforms (refer to SOP Uniforms for sanction classifications and additional duties);

b. Police vehicles shall be highly visible and marked;

c. Sworn personnel shall use warning or stop signs and pylons;

d. Sworn personnel shall post checkpoint signs; and;

e. Sworn personnel may use flares.

7. Sworn personnel shall minimize the average length of time a motorist is detained at the ~~roadblock~~ checkpoint and the degree of intrusiveness.

~~a. When an officer observes facts that warrant develops reasonable suspicion to further investigation, they shall direct the motorist suspected of a traffic or criminal offense to pull into a separate area to (something) these as not to impede the flow of traffic. have the driver exit the vehicle; other sworn personnel or PSA assigned to the checkpoint will move the vehicle out of the roadway.~~ When an officer develops reasonable suspicion to further an



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i. During a sobriety checkpoint, when an officer develops reasonable suspicion to further an investigation, the officer shall have the driver exit the vehicle; and:

a.ii. Sworn or PSA personnel, assigned to the checkpoint, will move the vehicle to a pre-determined location, out of traffic.

8. Sworn supervisory personnel shall give advance notice to the public on selective traffic enforcement to enhance deterrence.

a. Sworn supervisory personnel responsible for the checkpoint shall email the notice to media outlets.

9. Sworn personnel shall have their On-Body Recording Device (OBRD) in ~~buffer-~~mode buffer mode for the duration of the checkpoint

a. Sworn personnel shall activate their OBRD upon asking a driver to exit their vehicle to conduct an investigation; or during any incident that would otherwise be required pursuant to SOP 2-8 (Formerly 1-39) Use of On-Body Recording Devices; and

a.b. Sworn personnel or PSA personnel shall activate their OBRD when driving a vehicle out of the roadway

E. Authorization for Checkpoints

1. The Metro Traffic Division Commander or their designee shall approve all sobriety and traffic enforcement checkpoints submitted by a sergeant.

2. In all cases, only supervisory personnel at the rank of sergeant or above shall be in charge of the checkpoint.