



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Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):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
- 2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle

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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)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 with a specific violation targeted and where vehicles are stopped and drivers are contacted.

B. Roadblock

1. An emergency intentional obstruction of traffic for the safety of the community. The three types of roadblocks are:
 - a. Class A Roadblock: To stop traffic with portable signs and warning devices without physically blocking the roadway;



- 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
- c. Class C Roadblock: The physical blocking of the roadway with heavy material or equipment (i.e., patrol vehicles, City-owned equipment, etc.). Only City-owned materials and equipment shall be used for a Class C Roadblock.

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
 - 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 shall use a Class C Roadblock as a last resort after other reasonable and less hazardous measures are ineffective and when stopping a motorist is necessary for public safety.
 - a. Sworn personnel are prohibited from seizing a 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
 - 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 Road Block

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

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

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

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

6. The official nature of the roadblock 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.

e. Sworn personnel may use flares.

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

a. When an officer observes facts that warrant further investigation, they shall direct the motorist suspected of a traffic or criminal offense to pull into a separate area to (something) the flow of traffic.



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

a. Sworn personnel shall email the notice to media outlets.

E. Authorization for Checkpoints

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

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

REDLINED



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

~~2-42 DWI Investigations and Revoked/Suspended License~~

2-45 Pursuit by Motor Vehicle

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 ~~Albuquerque Police Department~~ (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 ~~when reasonably necessary~~ 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~~ planned enforcement activity, with a specific violation targeted and, where vehicles are stopped and drivers are contacted.

B. Roadblock

~~B.1.~~ 1.



~~An Emergency~~ emergency intentional obstruction of traffic for the safety of the community. The three types of roadblocks are:

~~a.~~ Class A Roadblock: To

~~Stopping traffic by use of~~ with portable signs and warning devices without physically blocking the roadway;

~~b.~~ Class B Roadblock: The

~~Physically blocking of~~ the roadway with lightweight materials and/or equipment ~~which that~~ will cause little or no damage to a vehicle ~~(with~~ four (4) or more wheels ~~when~~ ~~ed vehicle~~) striking them struck, (i.e., lightweight barricade devices, flares, pylons, etc.). Due care and caution must be considered for two-wheeled ~~or~~ and three-wheeled vehicles (e.g., motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, trike) when physically blocking a roadway with any material; and

~~c.~~ Class C Roadblock: The

~~Physical blockage~~ blocking of the roadway with heavy material or equipment, (i.e., patrol vehicles, ~~city~~ City-owned equipment, etc.). Only ~~city~~ City-owned materials and equipment shall be used for a Class "C" ~~roadblock~~ Roadblock. ~~Commandeering a tractor-trailer or another such vehicle is prohibited.~~

2-43-4

~~Procedures~~

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~~A. Classification of Roadblock~~ Classifications and /Checkpoints

1. Sworn personnel may use A:

~~a.~~ A Class A roadblock Roadblock may be used to inspect individuals and vehicles in the event of jail/prison escapes, major felony investigations, and DWI detection, ~~etc.~~; and

~~b.~~ A Class B roadblock Roadblock may be used to warn motorists of severe road conditions due to inclement weather, ~~such as snow and ice~~, or to reroute traffic due to special events, traffic accidents, or crime scenes, ~~etc.~~

Sworn personnel shall use a

2. A Class C roadblock Roadblock shall be used as a last resort after other reasonable, and less hazardous measures are ineffective ~~have failed~~ and when stopping a ~~vehicle~~ motorist is necessary to protect lives ~~for public safety~~.

a. Sworn personnel are prohibited from ~~Cseizing~~ emmandeering a tractor-trailer or another such vehicle is prohibited.



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 Road Block

1. Sworn 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.

~~5.~~

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~~B.D. Criteria for All Checkpoint~~ Criteria

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

6N/

~~2. Sworn personnel shall not randomly stop motorists. Vehicles shall not be stopped randomly.~~

~~a. Sworn personnel shall use a pre-established method of selection that must be used when determining which motorists vehicles to stop, i.e., every vehicle, every third vehicle, etc.~~

~~b. Sworn personnel shall establish uniform procedures that shall be established for when interacting with each motorist in precisely the same manner.~~

~~2.i. However, sworn personnel, pursuant to~~ with approval from their chain of command, sworn personnel shall have the discretion to determine whether ~~or not to pursue a motorist individuals 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 personnel shall consider which

~~5.3. Safety measures shall be used~~ must shall be considered for warning approaching traffic, the degree to which the roadblock causes traffic congestion,



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and whether the roadblock ~~is~~ places other motorists and sworn personnel at risk ~~set up in such a way so as to put the motoring public and officers in unnecessary peril.~~

~~6.4.~~ Sworn personnel shall not select The a roadblock location shall not be selected to target people-motorists within specific racial or ethnic groups reasonable.

~~7.5.~~ Sworn personnel shall select a reasonable The time and duration of for the roadblock; therefore, sworn personnel shall not make a roadblock shall be reasonable-be reasonable and shall not be excessive-excessively longe.

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

6N/

- ~~a. Department Sworn Officers Sworn personnel should~~ 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 cars-vehicles should~~ shall be highly visible and marked.
- ~~c. and Sworn personnel shall the use of warning or stop signs, flares, and pylons.~~
- ~~7. Sworn personnel may use flares are advisable.~~
- ~~d. Sworn personnel shall post checkpoint signs.~~
- ~~e. Sworn personnel may use flares.~~

8.

Sworn personnel shall minimize

~~7. The average length of time a motorist-motorist is detained at the roadblock and the degree of intrusiveness shall~~ be minimized.

~~a. When an officer observes Where facts within the observation of the officer that warrant further investigation, they officer shall direct the motorist suspected of a traffic or criminal offense-motorist shall be asked to pull into a separate area so as not to (something) unreasonably inhibit the flow of traffic.~~

~~10.~~

Sworn personnel shall give

~~8. Advance notice shall be given to the public on selective traffic enforcement to enhance deterrence.~~

~~a. Sworn personnel shall email the N notice is sent via email to media outlets.~~

~~12.~~

~~13. All personnel working any checkpoint shall will wear a reflective police vest or jacket.~~

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~~C.E.~~ Authorization for Checkpoints

1. The Metro Traffic Division Commander or their designee shall ~~must~~ approve all sobriety checkpoints submitted by a the sergeant-sergeant.



~~4. In all cases, a supervisory personnel at the rank of sergeant or above shall will be in charge of the ~~scene~~ checkpoint.~~

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~~C. Initiating a Road Block~~

~~G.~~

~~1. Sworn personnel shall decide to initiate a The decision to activate a roadblock shallould be based on the following:~~

- ~~a. The seriousness of the crime;~~
- ~~a. Sufficient information and description on the wanted persons or vehicles; and~~
- ~~a. The elapsed time between the criminal act and its discovery.~~

7

~~C. Roadblock Sites~~

~~1. Selection of roadblock sites shall~~ould:

- ~~a. Provide safety and convenience in stopping vehicles; and~~
- ~~a. Reasonable locations shall~~ould be considered, such as:
 - ~~xvi. Physically divided roadways (raised medians);~~
 - ~~xvii. Not on a blind curve or hill; and~~
 - ~~xviii. 2. A predesignated area to have vehicles safely moved off the roadway (parking lot for tow trucks and/or for officers to further their investigation).~~

