

- 
- I. Policy
  - II. General Principles and Procedures

- I. Policy

This Division's policy is to perform traffic direction and control functions, when necessary, to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

- II. General Principles and Procedures

Park Police officers are frequently called upon to direct traffic at the scene of accidents, special events, and other emergencies such as floods and fires. All officers will, when, directing traffic, ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicular traffic and pedestrians. The skillful execution of these duties will relieve congestion and reduce the risk of danger to vehicle operators and pedestrians.

- A. Hand Signals

Officers directing traffic will use common gestures and signals in order to create the greatest degree of public understanding and aid in the safe and efficient flow of traffic. These hand and arm motions must be deliberate and distinct in order to communicate what the officer wants vehicle operators and pedestrians to do.

- B. Traffic Accidents

Traffic accidents may require an officer to direct traffic for any of the following reasons:

1. To protect the scene.
2. Provide access for emergency vehicles.
3. Allow investigators to make and record measurements and photos.
4. Removal of damaged vehicles.
5. Clearing the roadway to restore normal traffic flow.

- C. Special Equipment/High Visibility Clothing

1. Officers assigned to a post directing traffic will utilize the following items to enhance officer safety, driver recognition and response:
  - a. Hat, cap or helmet
  - b. Reflective traffic vest/clothing
  - c. Flashlight or flares as needed
2. Temporary and permanent barricades, along with traffic cones, may also be used to control vehicular traffic. These barricades would most likely be used to close parking lots because of overcrowding and for closing parkways in case of high water, downed trees, and other emergency situations.
3. All officers should, except in emergency situations where time does not permit, use all of the above listed equipment when directing traffic.

## D. Fire Scene

The police responsibility at a fire scene is the same as at any other location where crowds congregate: vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and crowd control. Officers will divert traffic away from the scene, keeping the roadways open to allow for unimpeded movement of fire and rescue equipment.

## E. Traffic Control Device Malfunction

1. Officers should report any traffic control device malfunctions to Communications who will, then, notify the proper authorities (Montgomery County Government's Department of Transportation Traffic Management office) to correct any malfunction.
2. If necessary, officers will insure that the safety of motorists will not be hindered by the traffic control device malfunction(s) by physically directing traffic, setting up flares or barricades, utilizing the patrol cruiser's emergency lights/siren, and where applicable notifying Montgomery County Police when the hazard is within their jurisdiction.

## F. Traffic Engineering

1. Officers should refer any civilian complaints or suggestions concerning traffic engineering (placement of traffic control devices, high accident areas, laws, roadways, and so on) to the Department of Transportation Traffic Management office at the Executive Office Building, 50 Monroe Street, Rockville, Md. 20850.
2. Officers should analyze through documentation (citations, accident reports, citizen complaints, and so on) areas of traffic hazards and implement/coordinate projects for correction through the above referenced county agency and other local jurisdictions.

**Approved Park Police Document  
Signed Original on File**

**End of Directive**