



Roadblock Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

Definition: A roadblock is an obstruction deliberately placed at one or more selected points on a roadway for the purpose of stopping vehicles.

Roadblocks are necessary at times to apprehend a person fleeing from the scene of a felony or attempting to evade felony arrest. Because roadblocks may involve the use of deadly force, a well disciplined procedure is essential. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for effecting forcible stops in moving and fixed roadblocks.

II. POLICY

Roadblocks may result in situations where the use of deadly force is involved. Officers may initiate a roadblock after all other reasonable and conventional means to stop a vehicle have failed. Before authorizing a roadblock, the senior officer on duty will evaluate available information and decide if a roadblock is appropriate; considering the imminent threat to the personal safety of the public, officers, and violators. Prior to the roadblock being set, the senior officer on duty will immediately notify the Chief of the intent to set the roadblock.

III. GENERAL

A. A moving roadblock is used to stop a fleeing violator's vehicle by employing a patrol vehicle, driving skills and techniques designed to restrict, reduce, or eliminate the chance for escape. The two types of moving roadblocks are:

1. Ramming/ P.I.T. - The deliberate act of impacting the violator's vehicle using a police vehicle to damage or otherwise force the violator's vehicle to stop. Ramming is a form of deadly force and is initiated only after all other reasonable means have failed and continued pursuit enhances the risk for serious injury or death to the public, police, and violator. Only those officers certified in the P.I.T. technique may employ the technique.
2. Rolling - A technique designed to stop a violator's vehicle by surrounding it with pursuit vehicles and intentionally slowing all vehicles to a stop. This roadblock does not normally involve the use of deadly force.

General Order No. 7-4 (Cont.)

B. A fixed roadblock is the use of physical stationary obstructions to stop or disable an approaching violator's vehicle. Only Town owned vehicles or property will be used and all vehicles will be unoccupied. This type of roadblock employs the use of deadly force and will be used only when the severity of the offense and the potential for further harm warrants the prevention of escape.

1. Another fixed roadblock employs the use of signs, flares, other warning devices, which if struck cause little or no damage. This type of roadblock does not normally employ the use of deadly force.
2. Any stationary roadblock MUST have a reasonable avenue of escape. No roadblocks will be employed that encompass the width of any roadway without an avenue of escape.
3. Stationary roadblocks will not be set on any blind curve that does not allow the violator enough distance to safely come to stop prior to the roadblock.

IV. ROADBLOCK PROCEDURES

A. The supervisor will consider the following before authorizing a roadblock:

1. The number of personnel available for assignment to the roadblock.
2. The seriousness of the crime or incident.
3. The sufficiency of information and descriptions of wanted persons and vehicles.
4. The traffic and roadway conditions.
5. The sufficiency of time to provide a reasonable system of warning to motorists.

B. The supervisor will, if possible, respond to and command the roadblock. The supervisor will ensure the Chief is notified if the use of deadly force is employed.