

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Traffic Control	DPM 2.7.25 Effective 04/05/2012 Revised 07/06/2021
Approved by: Chief of Police	Chapter: Traffic Related Incidents	Page: 1 of 4

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines regarding the orderly and safe movement of traffic and pedestrians on city streets.

2. TRAFFIC CONTROL [ALEAP 24.1]

2.1 Responsibilities

- A. Sworn and non – sworn uniformed members are responsible for conducting traffic control at:
 - 1. Accident scenes.
 - 2. Traffic hazard locations.
 - 3. Storm damage areas.
 - 4. Fire scenes.
 - 5. Malfunctioning traffic lights.
 - 6. Any location where traffic, pedestrian, or parking control is needed.
- B. While directing traffic or standing in a roadway, members are **required to wear their reflective safety vest.** [ALEAP 10.5B]
- C. In the intersection, the safest area to stand is in the middle area.

2.2 Supervisors [ALEAP 25.2]

- A. Once a hazardous traffic situation is brought to your attention, direct patrol assignments in areas that need traffic control (construction zones, special events, accident scenes, etc.).
- B. Do not use manual traffic control in areas that have automatic traffic controls unless they can be turned off (four-way flash).
- C. Order for members to be deployed for manual traffic control:
 - 1. Police Service Officers (PSOs).
 - 2. Sworn Officers.

3. MANUAL OPERATIONS OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS [ALEAP 24.1]

3.1 Reasons for Manual Operation

- A. Traffic light malfunctions.
- B. Move traffic at accident scenes or emergencies.
- C. Uninterrupted movement for motorcade or funeral procession.
- D. Alleviate congestion during special events.

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3.2 Procedure for Putting Traffic Lights on Four-Way Flash

- A. Open small door on traffic control box with traffic signal box key.
- B. Place the toggle switch labeled “**flash**” to the “**on**” position.
- C. Returning the flash switch to the “**off**” position will return the traffic lights to normal operations.
- D. Secure the signal box door.

3.3 When Manually Directing Traffic in an Intersection

- A. Stop traffic in all directions.
- B. Place traffic control signal on four-way flash and begin directing traffic.

4. TRAFFIC CONTROL AT SPECIAL EVENTS

Traffic will be responsible for preparing traffic plans for events that only require a traffic plan.

4.1 Plans to Include

- A. Entry and exit for vehicles and pedestrians.
- B. Parking and spectator control.
- C. Provisions for public transportation.
- D. Assignments of duties and relief.
- E. Alternate traffic routing.
- F. Temporary traffic controls.
- G. Emergency vehicle access.
- H. Media coverage (if necessary).

5. TRAFFIC CONTROL AT FIRE SCENES [ALEAP 24.1] [ALEAP 25.2]

5.1 Member Responsibilities

- A. Allow only emergency vehicles to enter the block where fire apparatus is parked and operating. Only lifesaving vehicles on the actual call for service will be allowed in.
- B. Do not allow any vehicles to drive over fire hoses (unless approved by the on scene Fire Command).
- C. Any parked vehicle that interferes with fire operations can be towed.

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6. TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR HELICOPTER RESCUE [ALEAP 24.1]

6.1 Member Responsibilities

- A. Once the helicopter ambulance has been requested by Fire:
 - 1. On scene supervisor or member will coordinate a landing site with the on-scene Fire Command.
- B. After locating a landing zone:
 - 1. Secure the area, paying special attention to private drives and alleys on side streets that need to be blocked. Provide, at least, a 60-foot safe zone around the helicopter. No one is allowed to enter this safe zone except emergency personnel.
- C. The Police Department is responsible for the safety of the helicopter on the ground. The Fire Department is responsible for landing and communicating with the helicopter.

7. TRAFFIC CONTROL DURING ADVERSE ROAD & WEATHER CONDITIONS [ALEAP 24.1] [ALEAP 25.2]

7.1 Responsibilities

- A. **Members**
 - 1. Perform traffic control duties as directed by a field supervisor.
 - 2. Advise field supervisors of hazardous road conditions encountered while on patrol.
 - 3. Close roads or streets that pose a hazard to the public due to conditions.
- B. **Field Supervisors**
 - 1. Close roads and streets that may pose a hazard to the public due to conditions.
- C. **Patrol Lieutenant**
 - 1. Notify a City Department or agency that may be affected or is needed to help control traffic.
 - 2. Contact news media via PIO (Public Information Officer) about streets that may be closed for a long period of time.

8. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES [ALEAP 24.1]

8.1 Purpose

- A. Augment personnel working traffic control in problem area or at special events.

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- B. Key signal light malfunctions: Temporary stop signs can only be placed in intersections where the power has failed if the lights are completely out.
- C. Approval from a supervisor is needed before calling for barricades.

9. PLACEMENT OF CONES / FLARES AT ACCIDENT SCENES

The following scale can be used for the proper placement of flares / cones at accident scenes. On-coming motorist should be able to stop before the scene using this scale. You may wish to add 15 to 20 MPH to the posted speed limit for this scale:

SPEED LIMIT	PLACE FIRST FLARE / CONE
20	65 ft. from scene
30	80 ft. from scene
35	90 ft. from scene
40	105 ft. from scene
45	120ft. from scene
50	130 ft. from scene