

<b>MESA POLICE</b>  Department Policy Manual	<b>Traffic Hand Signals</b>	<b>DPM 2.7.30</b> Effective 04/06/2012 Revised 07/06/2021
Approved by: <b>Chief of Police</b>	Chapter: Traffic Related Incidents	Page: <b>1 of 2</b>

## 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with guidelines for utilizing traffic hand signals.

## 2. GENERAL

### 2.1 Directing Traffic

- A. Direct pedestrians and motorists in the direction that it is safe for them to move.
- B. Use a type of sign language (gestures) that is easily understood. Verbal instructions are hard for drivers to hear.

### 2.2 Signals and Gestures

- A. To stop traffic:
  1. Point and look directly at the driver(s) to be stopped. Then raise hand so your palm is facing the driver(s). Hold until they stop.
  2. Stopping traffic from both directions on a cross street, stop one side first and then the other. Do not lower arms until both sides have stopped.
- B. To start traffic:
  1. Point at the cars the member wants to begin moving.
  2. With palm face up (towards the sky) and arm extended, bend arm at the elbow while swinging it back towards the chin. Continue this motion until vehicles start moving.
  3. Only start one direction of traffic at a time.
- C. Right turn:
  1. Point (gesture) towards the direction the member wants the driver to move in. Keep this up until they see the gesture and move in that direction.
- D. Left turn:
  1. Stop all moving traffic in the lanes the driver(s) will have to turn across.
  2. Stop the traffic going straight in the same direction of the vehicles wanting to turn left. Keep the "stop" gesture up while motioning (pointing the direction member wants them to go) the other cars to turn left.
- E. Two member signaling:
  1. One member is in charge and makes the decisions on changing traffic flow. The second member assists in implementing those decisions.
  2. Do not face the traffic that is moving. Stand with side towards on-coming vehicles.

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### 3. SIGNALING AIDS

#### 3.1 Whistle

- A. To get driver's attention:
  - 1. One long blast: Stop.
  - 2. Two short blasts: Go.
- B. Use several short (loud) blasts to get the attention of drivers and pedestrians who do not respond to member's directions.

#### 3.2 Voice

- A. Seldom used in directing traffic.
  - 1. Hard to give direction and many times misunderstood.
  - 2. Misinterpretations can be dangerous.
  - 3. Shouting at motorists can antagonize them.
- B. Whistle and arm gestures are usually sufficient to direct traffic.