

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	<h1>DUI – Sobriety Checkpoints</h1>	DPM 2.7.80 Effective 01/10/2013 Revised 08/10/2021
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 sobriety checkpoints. [\[ALEAP 24.3\]](#)

2. GENERAL

2.1 Site & Date Justification

- A. Based on DUI collision and enforcement data obtained by designated sergeant.

2.2 Authorization

- A. Chief of Police or designee.

3. CHECKPOINT PREPARATION

3.1 Traffic Section Lieutenant

- A. Designates a sergeant to coordinate and prepare checkpoint.

3.2 Assigned Sergeant

- A. Completes [DPM 2.7F16 Sobriety Checkpoint Preparation Guidelines](#).
- B. Ensures permission is granted from affected private property owners.
- C. If DUI processing will occur on site, ensures telephone is available for suspects to contact attorneys and facilitates release.

4. PHYSICAL CONFIGURATION

4.1 Established with Pre-Approved Traffic Control Plan

- A. Contact City Traffic Engineer with the Department of Transportation when necessary.

4.2 Required Warning Signs

- A. "REDUCED SPEED"
- B. "BE PREPARED TO STOP"
- C. "FLAGMAN AHEAD"
- D. "SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT AHEAD"

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E. “STOP”

4.3 Sign Placement

- A. 500 feet apart in above order.
- B. When possible, flag and illuminate signs with blinking lights.

4.4 Channelization

- A. Begins 300 feet from “STOP” sign.
- B. Cones placed 25 feet apart to define lane approach.

5. CONTACT WITH VEHICLE OPERATORS

- A. Officers wear uniforms and traffic safety vests.
- B. DRE and/or HGN certified officers are preferred.
- C. Make stops brief, not to exceed one minute.
- D. Contact officer says the following:
 1. *“You have been stopped at a Mesa Police Sobriety Checkpoint in an effort to detect and deter impaired drivers. Have you consumed any alcohol or controlled substances today/tonight?”*
 2. *“Are you a resident of the City of Mesa?”*
 3. *“Would you please review this brochure, fill out the questionnaire, and mail it back to us with your comments?”*
- E. Reasonable suspicion of impairment is required to justify further investigation.
 1. Fully document the reasonable suspicion if an arrest is made.
- F. If reasonable suspicion is established:
 1. Remove the driver from the vehicle and escort to the follow up area.
 2. Remove passengers and move them to the designated area.
 3. A Department member moves and properly parks the suspect vehicle in the designated area.
 4. Request the suspect to perform Field Sobriety Tests.

6. DRIVERS WHO REFUSE TO STOP AT THE CHECKPOINT

- A. May cite for appropriate violations, such as:
 1. Failure to stop for a stop sign.
 2. Failure to obey a police officer.
- B. Examine the driver for signs of impairment.
- C. **Do not detain drivers who refuse to cooperate solely for that reason.**

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7. FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- A. Initial contact officer conducts Field Sobriety Tests and remains with the driver throughout the follow up investigation.
- B. If driver is arrested, initial contact officer processes the arrestee.
- C. If after Field Sobriety Tests probable cause is not established, release the driver without a blood test.
- D. Release the driver from custody if driver is not charged with DUI after the breath or blood test.
- E. Obtain blood samples in the appropriate manner.

8. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Lieutenant at checkpoint at all times.
- B. Monitor flow of traffic and adjust using prescribed formula.
- C. Terminate checkpoint if insufficient number of officers are available to properly conduct it.
- D. Ensure statistics are maintained on:
 - 1. Number of vehicles through the checkpoint.
 - 2. Number of drivers field tested.
 - 3. Number of drivers arrested and charged.
- E. Ensure operational report with statistical data and evaluation is completed within **10 working days** of the checkpoint.
- F. Maintain original operational report.

9. TRAFFIC FACILITATION FORMULA

<u>DELAY</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
4 - 6 minutes	Stop 6 / Pass 6
6 - 8 minutes	Stop 6 / Pass 12
8 - 10 minutes	Stop 6 / Pass 18
over 10 minutes	Pass all vehicles until delay drops below 4 minutes.

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- A. Any other variation must be:
 - 1. Approved by lieutenant.
 - 2. Systemic in method.
 - 3. Document time delay and reason for change.
- B. **Random stopping of vehicles is NOT permissible.**

10. AVOIDANCE OF THE CHECKPOINT

- A. Post “NO U-TURN” signs along designated checkpoint route.
- B. Stop vehicles making U-Turns or failing to stop at checkpoint.
 - 1. Issue appropriate cites.
 - a. Examine driver for signs of impairment.

REFERENCES

- [DPM 2.7F16 Sobriety Checkpoint Preparation Guidelines](#)
- [DUI Cheat Sheet PowerDMS](#)