



General Order 63.2 - Traffic Accident Investigation

PURPOSE: Describe traffic direction and control at accident scenes, special hazards, (injury, fires and hazardous materials), and disposition of personal property of accident victims.

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ISSUED BY: Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter

REVIEWED BY: Patrol Division

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63.2.1 TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. When working or assisting with accident investigations or other hazardous situations, deputies should position their marked patrol vehicles, with appropriate emergency equipment activated, to:
 - 1. Physically protect the accident scene, emergency personnel, and other emergency equipment;
 - 2. Alert approaching motorists to the hazard ahead; and
 - 3. Provide traffic control to assist motorists around the hazardous area.
- B. After rendering first aid until the arrival of emergency medical personnel, if necessary, the control and direction of traffic around the hazardous area should be a priority, to the extent that personnel are available to do so.
- C. Flares may be used at accident scenes to:

1. Alert approaching traffic to the hazardous area ahead such as in situations where the hazardous area is just over a hillcrest or around a blind curve;
 2. Channel traffic around the hazardous area; and
 3. Supplement the emergency lighting systems of emergency vehicles on the scene.
- D. When flares are used, precautions must be taken to ensure that;
1. They are placed well away from the accident scene,
 2. They are not placed near flammable materials or explosives. (Certain materials used in roadway centerline and edge markings are flammable.)
- E. Flares shall not be used to mark a landing zone for a helicopter due to the fire hazard.
- F. In situations where the road cannot be re-opened for a significant period of time, the Kansas Department of Transportation and/or Sedgwick County Public Works can be contacted to bring signs and barricades to assist with the control of traffic and to set up a temporary detour around the hazardous area.

63.2.2 SPECIAL HAZARDS

- A. In the event of a fire or fire hazard, deputies should take whatever actions possible to protect life and property including:
1. Evacuation of citizens from the hazardous area;
 2. Providing first aid pending the arrival of emergency medical personnel;
 3. Providing a clear access for emergency vehicles to get into and out of the scene.
- B. In the event of a hazardous materials incident, deputies should follow procedures as outlined in general order [66.1.7](#).

63.2.3 PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ACCIDENT VICTIMS

- A. Deputies at the scene of an accident will take reasonable steps to ensure that property belonging to an accident victim is protected from theft or pilferage. This would include removing the property to a location for safekeeping if the property owner is unable to do so.
- B. Whenever possible, personal property with no significant value should be secured with the vehicle. Items such as purses, wallets, billfolds, or expensive items such as computer equipment, guns, money, etc., should not be left in the vehicle and should be turned in to the sheriff's property and evidence section for safekeeping. The location that personal property is secured should be noted in the deputy's report.