



**Maryland-National Capital Park Police
Prince George's County Division**



DIVISION DIRECTIVE

TITLE TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL		PROCEDURE NUMBER PG448.0	
SECTION Operational Procedures	DISTRIBUTION A	EFFECTIVE DATE 05/01/17	REVIEW DATE 05/01/21
REPLACES PG448.0 "Traffic Direction and Control", issued 10/15/04			
RELATED DIRECTIVES PG450.0, 450.1	REFERENCES CALEA 61	AUTHORITY <i>S.R. Johnson</i> Chief Stanley R. Johnson	

I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policy and procedures related to traffic direction and control.

II. POLICY

This Division's policy is to perform traffic direction and control functions, when necessary, to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPALS AND PROCEDURES

Park Police Officers are frequently called upon to direct traffic at the scene of accidents, special events, and other emergencies such as floods and fires. All officers will, when directing traffic, ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The skillful execution of these duties will relieve congestion and reduce the risk of danger to vehicle operators and pedestrians.

A. Hand Signals

Officers directing traffic will use common gestures and signals in order to create the greatest degree of public understanding and aid in the safe and efficient flow of traffic. These hand and arm motions must be deliberate and distinct in order to communicate what the officer wants vehicle operators and pedestrians to do.

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B. Traffic Accidents

Traffic accidents may require an officer to direct traffic for any of the following reasons:

1. To protect the scene.
2. Provide access for emergency vehicles.
3. Allow investigators to make and record measurements and photos.
4. Removal of damaged vehicles.
5. Clearing the roadway to restore normal traffic flow.

C. Special Equipment/High Visibility Clothing

1. Officers assigned to a post directing traffic will utilize the following items to enhance officer safety, driver recognition and response:

- Stetson, Ball Cap or Helmet
- Reflective traffic vest
- White/Reflective gloves (if available)
- Flashlight, flares or glow sticks (as needed)
- Whistle

2. Temporary and permanent barricades, along with traffic cones, may also be used to control vehicular traffic. These barricades would most likely be used to close parking lots because of overcrowding and for closing parkways in case of high water, downed trees, and other emergencies.

3. All officers should, except in emergency situations where time does not permit, use all of the above listed equipment when directing traffic.

D. Fire Scene

The police responsibility at a fire scene is the same as at any other location where crowds congregate: vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and crowd control. Officers will divert traffic away from the scene, keeping the roadways open to allow for unimpeded movement of fire and rescue equipment.

E. Traffic Control Device Malfunction

Officers should report any traffic control device malfunctions to Communications who will then notify the proper authorities to correct any malfunction.

If necessary, officers will insure that the safety of motorists will not be hindered by the traffic control device malfunction(s) by physically directing traffic, setting up flares or barricades, utilizing the patrol cruiser's emergency lights/siren, and where applicable notifying Prince George's County Police, Maryland State Police

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or other agencies responsible for the malfunctioning devices location when the hazard is within their jurisdiction.

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