
LAURENS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SOP# P-290

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SUBJECT: ROAD BLOCKS

INDEX AS: ROAD BLOCKS: LICENSE CHECKS: FIXED ROAD BLOCK

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/30/2005 REVISED DATE:

I. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures governing the use and implementation of fixed and moving road blocks.

II. SCOPE:

These guidelines shall apply in instances where a road block is used.

III. POLICY:

The authority to establish or cancel a road block shall belong only to the SHERIFF OR CHIEF DEPUTY.

IV. ROAD BLOCK DEPLOYMENT:

A. Fixed Road Block- Fleeing Felon: Roadblocks may be set up by the Field Supervisor in an effort to apprehend a fleeing felon. If there is probable cause to believe that a felon is trying to escape from a particular area, a roadblock may be set up and a check of vehicle occupants may be made.

B.Fixed Road Block- Pursuit: Under no circumstances will a fixed road block be utilized to stop a vehicle that is being pursued by a Deputy where all charges are misdemeanors. A fixed road block may be utilized upon the direction of the Field Supervisor only as a last resort, in felony cases. Roadblocks of this type must offer an alternative path of travel around the blockade.

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No road blocks will be erected unless the road and weather conditions allow visibility in both directions for a minimum of five hundred feet (500').

This type of roadblock will not be employed when it is apparent that innocent persons will be endangered.

Once a road block is established, the dispatcher shall notify on all frequencies the location of the road block to the pursuing law enforcement vehicles and shall ensure acknowledgment.

DEPUTIES WILL NOT REMAIN IN ANY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLE THAT IS USED TO BLOCK OFF THE ROADWAY.

- D. Moving Road Blocks: Under certain circumstances, the use of rolling road blocks is effective and the chance of injury and vehicle damage is greatly reduced. A moving road block should be considered before resorting to a stationary road block.

Methods of employment:

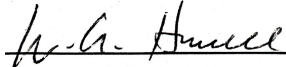
1. Creating slow moving traffic. Reducing the movement of the wanted vehicle may be accomplished by slowing the normal flow of traffic. This is accomplished by patrol units entering the roadway sufficiently ahead of the violator. By slowing the flow of normal traffic, the violator and the pursuit vehicle are forced to reduce their speed.
2. Blocking. In pursuit at moderate speeds, blocking may be accomplished by positioning a patrol vehicle in front of the violator and another patrol vehicle beside the violator. Speed should be reduced gradually until the violator is stopped. Every effort should be made to maximize officer safety and avoid actual contact with the violator's vehicle.

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W. A. HARRELL
SHERIFF

11/30/2005

EFFECTIVE DATE: