

GENERAL ORDER

ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

TITLE: Roadblocks
NUMBER: 5.380
SCOPE: All Sworn Employees
REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statute 946.40
Roadblock Diagrams

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/05
CANCELS: Policy 7.03B
APPROVED BY: Sheriff

PURPOSE

This general order establishes guidelines for the implementation of roadblocks and road spike deployment for the purpose of stopping fleeing violators.

POLICY

Roadblocks are inherently dangerous. Procedures must be used which are designed to accomplish the objective, and yet afford maximum safety commensurate with the situation. Prime consideration must be given to the safety of the users of the highway when employing roadblocks and adequate warning must be given to all directions of the traffic flow.

While roadblocks are necessary at certain times to apprehend persons, roadblocks will be used only as a last resort and must be directly associated with the seriousness of the crime for which the suspect is wanted.

DEFINITION

Roadblock: Any method, restriction, or obstruction utilized or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage of motor vehicles on a highway in order to effect the apprehension of an actual or suspected violator in a motor vehicle.

PROCEDURES

- A. Decision to Use a Roadblock
1. Roadblocks shall not be implemented without the express approval of a supervisor. The decision to activate a roadblock shall be based on:
 - a. The seriousness of the crime;
 - b. Sufficient information and description of wanted persons and vehicles;

- c. Existing road and weather conditions;
- d. Area demographics and terrain;
- e. Traffic condition;
- f. The elapsed time between the criminal act and its discovery;
- g. Enough set up time to properly select and establish a roadblock location.

B. Roadblock Procedures

1. Never set up a roadblock in a dark or blind area such as over hills, around curves, etc.
2. Use well lighted spots whenever possible, using ALL emergency visual aid equipment to help light up the roadblock such as:
 - a. Rotating roof emergency lights;
 - b. Low beam headlights;
 - c. Spotlights and fusees.
3. In all cases, dispatch shall be advised immediately of the location of any roadblock. Also, pursuing vehicles are to be notified of the location so as to allow reactionary measures to be taken.
4. When roadblock vehicles are in place and/or the roadblock is complete, all deputies shall remain far enough back from the roadblock so as to prevent any injury to deputies should the fleeing vehicle(s) attempt to run through or around the roadblock. No one shall remain in the blocking vehicles.
5. Roadblock Types:
 - a. Extreme Roadblock: The blocking of a roadway so as to allow no avenue of escape to the fleeing vehicle.
 - b. Partial Roadblock: The blocking of a roadway in such a manner as to allow one lane of traffic to pass, but only at a reduced speed.
 - c. Moving Roadblock: Can be either partial or extreme in nature, depending on the number of squads used, the blocking squads are

moving in the same direction as the offending vehicle. Extreme caution shall be taken to be alert for oncoming traffic.

6. Tire Deflation Devices (Stop Sticks):

- a. When time permits and safety considerations are met, the use of stop sticks is authorized. No deputy shall be permitted to deploy a stop stick unless all of the following criteria are met:
 - (1) The deputy has been trained in the use of the stop sticks and deployment as established by training and manufacturer's recommended use.
 - (2) The deputy receives express approval from a Sheriff's Department supervisor for use of the stop sticks, prior to their deployment.
 - (3) Stop sticks will not be deployed for another law enforcement agency involved in a pursuit unless requested by a supervisor from that agency, and then, will be approved only after a supervisor from this Department verifies that the other agency's pursuit meets this Department's criteria for engaging in the pursuit.
 - (4) When possible, the pursuing officers will first be made aware of and acknowledge that the stop sticks will be used, including location and any officer controlled lane restrictions established.
 - (5) The deploying deputy stays with and collects the device.
- b. Stop sticks shall not be used to deflate the tires of pursued motorcycles.
- c. Once this Department deploys stop sticks, either for a pursuit by this Department, or at the request of another law enforcement agency, and disables or partially disables the pursued vehicle, it will be this Department's responsibility to ensure that the pursued vehicle is stopped in as safe and expeditious manner as possible.
- d. A report shall be made, after the use of a stop stick, and a copy sent to Support Services, so a replacement stick may be requested.
- e. Deputies and other sworn personnel who may be required to deploy tire deflation devices shall receive update training on their proper usage on a yearly basis. That training may be at the roll call or in-service level, as determined by the Department's Training Sergeant.

7. Commandeering Civilian Vehicles: Wisconsin Statute 946.40(1), allows an officer to demand assistance from civilians even to the extent of using their vehicles for a roadblock. This course of action is to be avoided and then used only in very serious felony situations.
8. Any additional squads available near the scene of a roadblock should be positioned to warn, control and stop citizen traffic if necessary.