

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC CONTROL Date Issued: 08-14-2009 Review: 08-14-2011

Policy

- To establish procedures for traffic direction and control
- To identify safety flaws and work with the appropriate agencies to correct them.

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to cover:

- Engineering
- Traffic Control Devices
- Special Events
- Manual Traffic Control
- Accident Scenes

Engineering (61.3.1)

All complaints or suggestions regarding traffic engineering problems will be forwarded to the appropriate party through the Chief of Police.

Position	Responsibilities
Dispatcher	<i>Emergency Nature: (tree, power lines down, etc)</i> Have officer respond to assess the scene Contact Department of Public Works or NH Department of Transportation <i>Non- Emergency:</i> Contact Department of Public Works or NH Department of Transportation
Chief of Police	Cooperates fully on joint committees with Town Engineer and Department of Public Works Attend regional meetings Forwards complaints or suggestions to appropriate town or state agencies Forwards to state or town engineer any data and solutions to traffic engineering problems identified by the department A copy to be sent to town's Joint Loss Prevention Committee

Traffic Direction Guidelines

Reflective vests are required to be worn when directing traffic. In an emergency, officer can use their reflective pull down flaps on the jackets (61.3.2 g).

Adverse weather special precautions should be used for safety:
(61.3.2d)

- use of flares or other devices for greater visibility
- use of emergency vehicle lights
- any other agency (i.e.: Fire Department) to assist for public safety

During icy or slippery road conditions no fixed traffic post will be posted at the school or Loon Mountain entrance.

The selection of the location for traffic direction is:

- usually the center of the intersection, or;
- the best place to allow the safe direction & flow of traffic.

Fire Scenes (61.3.2c)

- officers check with the Fire Incident Commander
- address any special needs

Traffic Flow

- Officer should give special attention to vehicles turning into traffic, so that it can be controlled and not hamper the traffic flow too greatly.
- Pedestrian traffic should be a part of the officer's directions, allowing for the safe crossing of the streets.
- At construction details, trucks take longer to stop and travel slower on an incline, officers should keep this in mind when directing traffic.

Manual Signals (61.3.2b)

The use of uniform signals is critical to reduce driver confusion.

The police whistle can also be used to aid hand signals (*optional*):

- not encouraged during midnight tour
- caution should be used in extreme cold weather, warm it prior to using to prevent injury to lips.

Officer should stand parallel to the flow of traffic.

Eye contact should be used with the drivers as much as possible.

Instructions	Officer should....
Stop	Point at the driver Raise hand to shoulder level Palms of hand facing the driver <i>Whistle- one short blast</i>
Start	Raise arm to shoulder level Palm upward Bring hand towards head, bending arm at elbow <i>Whistle- Two blasts</i>
Turns	Point towards driver Motion to start Other hand pointing in the direction of turn <i>Whistle- Two Blasts</i>
Unusual or Dangerous Conditions	Stop all traffic to gain control <i>Whistle – Three short Blasts</i>

Caution should be used at all times and officers should be aware that drivers are easily confused by hand signals, especially if directing against an electric traffic light.

Temporary Traffic Control Devices

The Chief and his supervisors have the authority to modify traffic patterns, restrict parking on a temporary basis due to safety conditions, and crowd control issues.

- Public notice will be given if possible.
- Restrictions are to be made clear to motorists by signs, traffic control devices and barricades.
- Sufficient signs should be used to keep confusion at a minimum.
- The officer in charge shall promptly remove any signs or barricades after the event.

Accidents (61.3.2a)

Officers shall follow the Traffic Accident General Order.

- Officers shall protect the scene.
- Park in such manner to slow traffic, safeguard the area and avoid spilled combustible material.
- Warning Flares should be used away from flammable liquid spills.
- Officers shall provide traffic control as necessary, the second officer responsibility, if available.
- Vehicles shall be moved off to the side of the roadway as soon as possible.

Road closures shall be used only for extreme cases and a supervisor shall be notified of the incident

Franconia Notch Plan can go into effect if necessary based on the criteria the multi agency task force agreed to.

Mechanized Intersection

- If an officer needs to direct traffic in the intersection, the light shall be disabled and placed on flash to allow the officer to avoid confusion and take control.
- Officers can also operate the mechanical device manually to control the flow of traffic.

Special Events

- The supervisor working with the events coordinators shall refer to past plans and take into consideration the following:
 - Emergency vehicle access,
 - Alternate routes for traffic,
 - Parking,
 - Public Transportation,
 - Temporary traffic prohibitions
 - Pedestrian safety,
 - Traffic posts that need to be manned and officer assigned.

A Special Order needs to be issued covering the details after approval by the Chief.