

# DIRECTIVE 61.3 TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL

<b>Issue Date: 06/08/2020</b>	<b>By Order of Chief of Police</b>
<b>Rescinds: (Issue 04/02/2019)</b>	<b>CALEA Standards</b>
<b>Pages: 6</b>	<b>Referenced: 61.3.1; 61.3.2; 61.3.3 &amp; 61.3.4</b>

**This directive consists of the following sections:**

- 61.3.1 Traffic Engineering**
- 61.3.2 Direction / Control Procedures**
- 61.3.3 Escorts**
- 61.3.4 School Crossing Guards - N/A by Function**

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE:**

Officers of the Miami Township Police Department will provide traffic direction and control, where necessary, to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Such duties will be carried out in a courteous and consistent manner to foster a positive public attitude and acceptance of such directions and control.

### **61.3.1 Traffic Engineering**

#### *Handling or Referral of Complaints or Suggestions*

The Patrol Division Supervisor or his/her designee is responsible for handling or referring complaints or suggestions concerning traffic engineering deficiencies. Traffic engineering deficiencies may include:

- Pavement problems.
- Inadequate signals, signs or markings.
- Excessive signals, signs or markings.
- Inadequate overhead lighting.
- Inadequate storage in turning lanes.
- Lack of turning lanes where needed.
- Obstructed line of sight for motor vehicle operators.
- Poorly designed merging lanes.
- Poorly designed turning movements.
- Poorly timed signals.
- Non-coordinated signals over short distance.
- Inadequate curb cut controls.

The Patrol Division Supervisor or his/her designee shall when needed make written recommendations for traffic engineering improvements to the appropriate roadway department or authority.

- Township dedicated roadways are the responsibility of the Miami Township Service Department.
- County dedicated roadways are the responsibility of the Clermont County Engineer's Office.
- State dedicated roadways are the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

#### [Transmitting Collisions and Enforcement Data](#)

Collision and enforcement data are submitted to the Ohio Department of Public Safety via the Records Management software program. Ohio Traffic Crash Report forms are also posted on the Miami Township Police Website and may be viewed by any person wishing to do so.

### [61.3.2 Direction / Control Procedures](#)

#### [Traffic Collision Scenes](#)

Officers will use the patrol vehicle's overhead lights, flares and other appropriate warning devices, including traffic vests, as necessary to protect personnel, the scene and to alert approaching traffic at a traffic crash scene.

Flashing overhead lights, flares can create traffic problems and their unnecessary use will be curtailed when a road hazard no longer exists. Once the scene has been cleared of vehicles and debris, the officer will arrange for the prompt removal of flares and other warning devices that may have been used to protect the scene.

#### [Uniform Signals and Gestures](#)

Officers performing manual traffic direction and control will ensure that their presence and purpose are well demonstrated to drivers and pedestrians and will place themselves in such a place and manner that will enable operators of vehicles and pedestrians to recognize and respond to the officers' verbal and hand directions. The following signals and commands may be utilized.

- To STOP Traffic – The officer should first extend his arm and index finger toward and look directly at the operator to be stopped until that person is aware, or it can be reasonably assumed that the operator is aware, of the officer's gesture. Second, the pointing hand is raised at the wrist so as that its palm is toward the operator to be stopped and the palm is held in the position until the operator is observed to stop. One long whistle blast may be used to emphasize the stop signal.

- To START Traffic – The officer with their arm extended in the stopped position, the arm will be moved at the elbow in a manner to indicate that the traffic may now proceed. This is done by swinging the arm upwards from the elbow down, toward the direction in which traffic is to flow. Two short whistle blasts may be used to emphasize the go signal.
- To TURN RIGHT – The officer should extend one arm and index finger pointing in the direction that the vehicle is to proceed. The officer should extend the other arm and index finger at the operator of the vehicle that is to turn and swing the arm in the direction the vehicle is to turn.
- To TURN LEFT – The officer should use the same procedure as to direct traffic to turn right. The officer shall be aware of oncoming traffic so as not to direct traffic to turn in front of oncoming traffic to cause a traffic crash.
- To GET ATTENTION – Three short whistle blasts will be used to get the attention of drivers and pedestrians who are not responding to commands.

Voice commands should seldom be used in directing traffic, as they are not easily understood and often lead to misinterpretation. Should the need arise that the officer must direct the operator or pedestrian by voice, the direction should be polite and brief while being explicit as to what the officer is directing the person to do.

A flashlight may be used to stop traffic slowly. The officer should swing the beam of the light across the path of the oncoming traffic. The beam from the flashlight should strike the pavement as an elongated spot of light. Once the vehicle is stopped, the operator should be directed using physical signals.

### *Critical Incident Scenes*

Traffic control at the scene of critical incidents falls under the command of the Operations Function of the critical incident. The responsibilities of this function are as follows:

- Plan and/or assist in the planning of traffic operations related to the incident.
- Provide personnel for implementation of any traffic operation plans.
- Assist in keeping open the routes into and away from the scene and command post.

Officers arriving at the scene of a fire will assess the hazards present and act to minimize further damage to property or life. These may include directing traffic and/or evacuating the immediate area.

The officer will assist the Fire Department in making certain the scene is clear for emergency vehicles by maintaining access and egress from the fire scene. In addition, officers will establish safe routes of travel for motorists while restricting entry to unauthorized vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Officers will provide perimeter services to allow unrestricted access to the scene by fire and emergency vehicles and personnel.

All unauthorized Fire/EMS personnel arriving on the scene in private vehicles will be allowed to park at the edge of the police perimeter but not near the actual emergency scene unless conditions so permit or necessitate.

#### *Adverse Road and Weather Conditions*

Adverse road conditions include downed utility lines, debris, ice or snow on the roadway. Officers encountering or being notified of such conditions shall the CDPSS if not dispatched and the shift supervisor. Appropriate personnel shall be notified to correct the condition. Should the situation warrant, an officer may be required to perform manual traffic direction at the scene.

#### *Traffic Control Devise Manual Operation*

Officers are not permitted to operate a traffic control signal manually without the permission of a supervisor, except to place the unit on 'flash' when it has been determined that the unit is malfunctioning, or manual control of the intersection is otherwise required. The officer must inform the CDPSS of the malfunctioning signal devise so that the appropriate agency is contacted, and repairs can be made.

#### *Temporary Traffic Control Devices*

As a general policy, temporary traffic control devises will be used only in a pre-scheduled special event or road construction project. The devises will normally be placed and removed by the Service Department with the Police Department coordinating placement of such devices.

Portable temporary stop signs may also used in emergency cases, these would include accidents, critical incidents, etc.

When the service department is not available to assist, or has a long response time, police officers may use the equipment on the Emergency Response Trailer (ERT) to place temporary traffic control devices and/or barricades.

#### *Reflective Clothing Requirement*

Officers will wear the department issued ANSI certified reflective traffic vest in addition to the authorized uniform when conducting manual traffic direction and control.

An officer may forgo the wearing of the traffic vest until such time as the situation is under control.

### 61.3.3 Escorts

#### Law Enforcement Escort Services

Officers are prohibited from providing escorts for other emergency vehicles responding to calls unless assistance is needed in directing an emergency unit unfamiliar with the area to the scene of the emergency.

Escorts to be provided by this agency will be processed through the Patrol Division Supervisor so that needed personnel and equipment can be scheduled.

Escorts may be requested by outside law enforcement agencies, for public officials or dignitaries and full cooperation will be extended in providing escort services.

Emergency requests for escorts of public officials and/or dignitaries by other law enforcement agencies will be handled by the shift supervisor. Information regarding the escort shall be confirmed by the supervisor receiving the request.

Emergency escorts will not be provided for non-government functions.

Escorts of oversized loads and/or hazardous cargo are governed by ICC and PUCO/ODOT regulations. Requests for police assistance with this type of escort must be approved in advance by the Patrol Division Supervisor.

Officer shall be aware of such regulations governing transportations and escorts of such cargo and take such enforcement action as necessary for observed violations.

#### Civilian Vehicles in Medical Emergencies

Officers are prohibited from providing emergency escorts of civilian vehicles for medical emergencies. When an officer is requested to escort a private vehicle, which is carrying an ill or injured person, the officer will determine the severity of the illness or injury.

In a situation that is not of a life-threatening nature, the officer will instruct the driver of the vehicle to proceed carefully and obey all traffic regulations. The officer may, if appropriate, suggest the quickest and safest route to the hospital. The officer may furnish a non-emergency escort to a local treatment facility, if requested, and then only with approval of the supervisor.

When the situation is of a life-threatening nature, the officer will request appropriate assistance of Emergency Medical Services by informing the CDPSS of the nature of the problem based on the information available. Officers will administer what emergency medical aid that they are trained in and able to perform.

**61.3.4 School Crossing Guards – N/A By Function**

Miami Township Police Department does not participate in School Crossing Guards.