

Linden Auxiliary Police Department

Traffic Control Training and Field Exercise

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Purpose: This training manual is designed to instruct new Linden Auxiliary Police Department recruits in basic emergency traffic management.

Note: Please thoroughly review this document before the live field exercise to ensure the safety of all involved.

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Traffic Control

- 1) Purpose: Manual traffic control is the assignment of one or more officers to a post where there is little or no automated traffic control equipment operating properly, but a means of traffic control is necessary for public safety. Examples of this would be the failure of a traffic light due to damage or power outage, or an event where an unusually large volume of traffic is present on roads not designed to handle such volume.
- 2) Techniques: Traffic control can be completely automated with permanently installed or portable equipment designed for this purpose. Traffic lights, stop signs, and portable lighted notice boards are just some of the more commonly used devices. If there is an equipment failure, or a situation exists where an officer must manually control the flow of traffic, then that officer will ultimately be responsible for the safety of everyone passing through his or her designated control area.
- 3) Hand Signals: The most basic form of manual traffic control are hand signals present by the controlling officer to pedestrians and drivers in proximity to his or her intersection. Specific hand signals, as well as when and how to utilize them will be taught during the practical exercise.
- 4) Equipment: The equipment used for emergency traffic management may include a police vehicle, road flares, traffic cones, and hand-held signaling devices, caution tape, etc.

Safety

The safety of the officer as well as any civilians in the immediate area should always be the top priority of any Auxiliary Officer controlling traffic.

- 1) **Traffic Vest:** A brightly colored and partially reflective traffic safety vest should be worn at all times when an officer is in the road directing traffic.
- 2) **Reflective Gloves:** During times of reduced driving visibility such as inclement weather, dawn, dusk, or night, any officer directing traffic should have either reflective gloves or a hand-held signaling device as well as a whistle in order to give clear instructions to motorists.
- 3) **Hand-Held Signaling Device:** An officer directing traffic during times of reduced visibility will greatly benefit from an illuminated hand-held device such as a flashlight with a traffic wand attached, or an LED traffic baton. Officers should avoid using incendiary road flares as hand-held signaling devices because of their hazardous nature.

Live Training Exercise

- 1) Course:
 - a) Location: The Auxiliary Officers put in charge of the live training exercise shall choose a location large enough to safely conduct the class and separated from civilians for safety concerns.
 - b) Setup: Using traffic cones, a series of vehicle routes will be set up to simulate roads and intersections. The officers participating in the training exercise will be on foot, as well as in their vehicles to simulate pedestrian and car traffic. One officer at a time, under the supervision of the training officers will take control of the intersection and learn to negotiate vehicular and pedestrian traffic with different scenarios.
- 2) Goals:
 - a) Each officer will understand and be able to effectively employ the traffic control devices available for use.
 - b) Each officer will be able to correctly position themselves and their police vehicle based on the situation encountered, including disabled vehicles, motor vehicle accidents, injured persons, road hazards, etc.
 - c) Each officer will learn the proper procedure for notifying dispatch over the police radio of any hazardous situation that they may encounter on the road as well as how and when to request assistance.