


PBP FORM 290  PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF POLICE <i>"...honor, integrity, courage, respect, and compassion."</i>		SUBJECT: "SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS; GENERAL REGULATIONS"		ORDER NUMBER: 41-2
		PLEAC STANDARD:		PAGE 1 OF 3
ISSUE DATE: 7/25/2017	EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/1/96	ANNUAL REVIEW DATE: MAY	RESCINDS: ALL PREVIOUS	AMENDS: NONE

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 The purpose of this order is to establish the Bureau's policies and procedures for the uniform application of sobriety checkpoints.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, and specifically, the laws pertaining to Driving Under the Influence (D.U.I.) and related offenses. Part of the Bureau's enforcement strategy is the establishment of sobriety checkpoints to deter driving under the influence in compliance with federal, state and local laws, guidelines and statistics.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 To provide guidelines for all members of the bureau to follow when conducting sobriety checkpoints.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Sobriety Checkpoint – A sobriety checkpoint is a law enforcement procedure wherein police officers utilize a systematic method for stopping vehicles at selected locations, designed to provide maximum visibility to the potential D.U.I. population, and to also generate D.U.I. arrests when appropriate through brief observations of drivers for articulable facts and/or behavior associated with driving under the influence violators.
- 3.2 Standard Field Sobriety Test- The Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) is a battery of 3 tests performed during a traffic stop in order to determine if a driver is impaired.

4.0 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDUCTING SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

- 4.1 Checkpoint site selection for sobriety checkpoints will be determined by empirical evidence, gathered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police indicating the locations where a high rate of fatal, serious, and D.U.I. related accidents and/or incidents are occurring. This data will be reviewed by the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee before approval as a site for a sobriety checkpoint. Sobriety checkpoint sites will be located within close proximity to these locations.
- 4.2 The Chief of Police and/or his/her designee will determine dates and times of sobriety checkpoints based on the same criteria as the site selection.
- 4.3 A standard operating procedure for sobriety checkpoints (contained herein) will be established explaining the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police goals, objectives and procedures for establishing sobriety checkpoints.
- 4.4 All sobriety checkpoint operations will be supervised by officers trained and knowledgeable in all phases of D.U.I. checkpoint operations. All sobriety checkpoints shall be conducted in a consistent and professional manner. All initial stops shall be conducted in a brief, systematic and non-intrusive manner.
- 4.5 All officers involved in sobriety checkpoints shall also be trained and knowledgeable in sobriety checkpoint operations. All officers will be briefed on the safe and efficient operations of the checkpoint and the policy and operational procedures for the checkpoints shall be reviewed on each occasion.
- 4.6 All vehicle stops and arrests shall be conducted in accordance with federal, state and local laws, the operational procedures for sobriety checkpoints, and with respect for the constitutional rights of those individuals stopped.

4.7 All sobriety checkpoints shall be standardized, consistent, and objective.

5.0 SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

5.1 The following procedures have been established to ensure the safe and successful operation of a sobriety checkpoint in compliance with the policies stated above and with guidelines established by federal and Pennsylvania courts.

5.2 The Chief of Police or his/her designee:

5.2.1 Shall provide the media with advanced notice that a sobriety checkpoint will be in operation. Exact locations and times may be released as an option.

5.2.2 Shall determine the location of the site(s) and alternate site(s) based on empirical data previously mention.

5.2.3 Shall determine the articulable and systematic method to be used for stopping vehicles.

5.2.4 Shall determine the time frame for checkpoint operations.

5.3 The Special Deployment Division sobriety checkpoint Administrator:

5.3.1 Shall schedule and ensure all officers that participate in D.U.I. checkpoints are trained in all aspects of sobriety checkpoint operations and standardized field sobriety testing.

5.3.2 Shall document all phases of D.U.I checkpoint operations and forward all reports to the Chief of Police and/or his/her designee.

5.3.3 Shall conduct pre-deployment and post-operational briefings for all participating officers and supervisors.

5.3.4 Shall remain at the checkpoint site to respond to any technical problems relating to checkpoint operations.

5.4 The Special Deployment Division sobriety checkpoint Supervisor:

5.4.1 Shall supervise the deployment of officers at the checkpoint site and the set-up of equipment at the checkpoint site.

5.4.2 Shall be responsible for on-site supervision of all officers working the checkpoint, ensuring that all checkpoint policies and procedures are being followed.

5.4.3 Shall directly supervise any pursuit initiated as a result of the sobriety checkpoint to ensure all pursuit policies of the Bureau of Police are adhered to. In the event the supervisor feels that in the interest of public safety the pursuit should be terminated, he/she will do so immediately.

5.4.4 Shall supervise the breakdown of the checkpoint site ensuring all equipment has been collected and the site is clear of debris.

5.5 Police Officers working the sobriety checkpoint:

5.5.1 Shall be familiar with their duties and responsibilities as outlined in this order, as well as internal Special Deployment Division sobriety checkpoint procedures.

5.5.2 Shall use care while approaching stopped vehicles, and conduct an officer safety visual scan of the interior of the vehicle. Officers will not search the driver, vehicle or occupants in the initial stop area without probable cause.

5.5.3 Officers must be certified in SFST and trained in checkpoint operations.

5.5.3 Shall, when initiating contact with the operator, use the following protocol:

- Greeting (*Good evening, sir*)
- Introduction (*My name is Officer Smith. . .*)
- Reason (*The reason you are being stopped is . . .*)

5.5.4 Following a few brief questions, the driver may be permitted to continue on if there is no reason to believe that he/she is driving while under the influence, or that any other violation has been observed.

5.5.5 In the event the officer observes articulable signs and behavior normally associated with a driver who has consumed alcohol or controlled substances, or observes any other criminal violation, he/she shall then conduct a further investigation including field sobriety and/or preliminary breath tests.

5.5.6 Shall, on finding that probable cause exists to arrest an operator, follow standard investigative/arrest techniques. The initial officer making the stop may conduct the complete investigation and arrest of the suspect.

5.6 The following vehicles will be required for all sobriety checkpoint operations:

- 5.6.1 A Mobile Command Post for the purpose of blood testing and administrative purposes. The Command Post will also be equipped with supplementary lighting systems for lighting the secondary testing area.
- 5.6.2 A sufficient number of marked police vehicles to adequately protect the checkpoint area with emergency lights, for transportation of those arrested, and for either pursuit or perimeter patrol
- 5.6.3 Tow trucks for the impoundment of vehicles when necessary.

- 5.7 The equipment required for sobriety checkpoints will be listed in detail within the internal Special Deployment Division’s procedural orders for D.U.I. checkpoint operations. This equipment will include lighting and safety equipment, signs, communications equipment, intoxilyzer equipment and site cleaning equipment.

- 5.8 Communications for sobriety checkpoints will be handled on a designated clear police frequency so as to not interfere with normal police operations. The checkpoint Command Post will monitor the radio frequency of the Zone in which the checkpoint is operational, and will keep all checkpoint officers advised of any emergency situations or important information that may arise.

- 5.9 A detailed internal Special Deployment Division procedural order will be maintained by the Special Deployment Division, and will specify:
 - 5.9.1 The specific duties and function of each officer and supervisor working a sobriety checkpoint.
 - 5.9.2 A description of equipment required for the checkpoint and the equipment’s function.
 - 5.9.3 The deployment of officers and equipment required for various types of checkpoint sites.
 - 5.9.4 The forms, reports and brochures required for sobriety checkpoint operations.

Approved By:



Scott Schubert
Chief of Police