

Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training

Basic Curriculum Model Lesson Plan

LESSON TITLE: TRAFFIC DIRECTION 4.5

SUBJECT:	Traffic Direction
AZ POST DESIGNATION:	4.5
HOURS:	4
COURSE CONTENT:	An identification and demonstration of the techniques for directing and controlling vehicular and pedestrian movements by means of hand signals. Standard hand signals and gestures designed to achieve maximum safety and efficiency for both emergency and routine traffic controls are illustrated. Applicable sections of the A.R.S. relating to Law enforcement authority are stressed.
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:	<p>Upon completion of this course of instruction, students using notes, handouts and other support materials as references, within the allotted time, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.5.1 Identify the following considerations for directing citizens to assist in traffic control:<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Liability issues.B. Giving simple and specific instructions.C. Assessing the reliability of the citizen.D. Using citizens only when absolutely necessary.4.5.2 Identify examples of what constitutes “Disobedience to peace officer directing or controlling motor vehicles” per A.R.S. §28-622, §28-1595 and A.R.S. §13-2509.4.5.3 Identify methods and precautions for channeling traffic and blocking or closing roadways, including the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Prevent additional collisions at the scene.B. Direct traffic via positioning.<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Barriers (including patrol car).

2. Flares.
 3. Traffic cones.
- 4.5.4 Identify examples of the conditions under which an officer is authorized to remove an illegally stopped or abandoned vehicle per A.R.S. §28-872, §28-4834(A).
- 4.5.5 Given a simulation depicting pedestrian and vehicle traffic, demonstrate proper techniques for directing and controlling vehicular and pedestrian movements by means of standard hand signals, gestures, whistle, voice commands and the use of protective equipment.

DATE FIRST PREPARED: August 2, 2000

PREPARED BY: Traffic SME Committee

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REVIEWED --REVISED:	AZPOST (DocX)	DATE: December 2021
AZ POST – APPROVAL:	Stephen Enteman	DATE: July 2019
AZ POST --APPROVAL:	Lori Wait	DATE: December 2021

INSTRUCTOR REFERENCES:

CLASS LEVEL: Student

TRAINING AIDS: <http://www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp>

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY: Interactive lecture and class discussion.

SUCCESS CRITERIA: 70% or higher on a written, multiple-choice examination.

COMPUTER FILE NAME: 4.5 Traffic Direction

DATE RELEASED TO THE SHARE FILE: August 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Instructor – (self) introduction.
- B. Preview of performance objectives.
- C. An officer directing traffic at a busy intersection is a frequent contact between citizens and police. The importance of a professional appearance and attitude cannot be overemphasized. Likewise, the skilled handling of what citizens recognize to be a difficult and hazardous job can generate and maintain public respect. ***INSTRUCTOR NOTE:*** *For some citizens, observing police direct traffic may be the only interaction they will have with the police.*
 - 1. Officers are assigned to direct traffic in order to expedite movement and to relieve congestion.
 - 2. With our high degree of population mobility, the need for standardized signals and gestures has become critical.
 - 3. Officers in all sections of the country should use the same basic techniques and signals to assure the greatest degree of public understanding and compliance.
 - 4. Of paramount importance is the officer’s personal safety in accomplishing this goal.
 - a. Always consider the technological distractions of today’s driver (cell phones, texting, GPS systems, MP3 players), and the aggressive tendencies of immature drivers.
 - b. On average, one law enforcement officer per month is struck and killed by motor vehicles.

II. PURPOSE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL

- A. Act as umpire.
- B. Prevent additional collisions at the scene. **P. O. 4.5.3A**
- C. Communicate to people how, when and where they may move.
 - 1. Kinetics – wordless communications.
 - 2. Standardized signals and gestures are very important.
- D. Lack of traffic control means confusion and danger.
- E. People must obey police officers’ directions. **P. O. 4.5.2**

1. A.R.S. §28-622. Obedience to police officers.
 - a. No person shall willfully fail, or refuse to comply with, any lawful order or direction of any police officer invested by law with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic.
 - b. A person who fails to act as provided by this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.
2. A.R.S. §28-1595. Failure to stop or provide a driver's license or evidence of identity, violation, classification.
 - a. The operator of a motor vehicle who knowingly fails or refuses to bring the operator's motor vehicle to a stop after being given a visual or audible signal or instruction by a peace officer or duly authorized agent of a traffic enforcement agency.
 - b. A peace officer or duly authorized agent of a traffic enforcement agency may give the signal or instruction required by subsection A of this section by hand, emergency light, voice, whistle or siren.
 - c. Guilty of Class 2 misdemeanor.
3. A.R.S. §13-2509. Resisting an order directing, regulating or controlling motor vehicle classification.
 - a. A person commits resisting an order directing, regulating or controlling a motor vehicle by knowingly failing to obey an order of a person reasonably known to him/her to be a peace officer, acting under color of such officer's official authority, directing, regulating or controlling his/her vehicle.
 - b. Resisting an order directing, regulating or controlling a motor vehicle is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

F. Officers may remove stopped vehicles.

P. O. 4.5.4

1. A.R.S. §28-872. Officers authorized to remove illegally stopped vehicles.
 - a. When any police officer finds a vehicle standing upon a highway in violation of the provisions of A.R.S. §28-871, the officer may either move the vehicle or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle, to move the vehicle to a position off the paved or main traveled part of the highway.
 - b. Any police officer may remove, or cause to be removed, to a place of safety, any unattended vehicle illegally left standing upon any highway, bridge or causeway or in any tunnel in such a position or under such circumstances as to obstruct the

normal movement of traffic.

- c. Any police officer may remove, or cause to be removed, to the nearest garage or other place of safety, any vehicle:
 - i. When a report has been made that such a vehicle has been stolen or taken without consent of its owner.
 - ii. When the person(s) in charge of such a vehicle is unable to provide for its custody or removal.
 - iii. When the person driving, or in control of such a vehicle, is arrested for an alleged offense for which the officer is required by law to take the person arrested before a proper magistrate without unnecessary delay.
 - iv. When the vehicle is left unattended for more than four (4) hours upon the right-of-way of any freeway that has full control of access and no crossings at grade.
 - v. When the vehicle is left unattended for more than two (2) hours upon the right-of-way of any freeway within the boundaries of a city that has full control of access and no crossings at grade.
2. A.R.S. §28-4831. A person shall not abandon a vehicle on any street or highway or on any other public, federal, state trust, national forest, state park or Bureau of Land Management land or private property.

III. DIRECTING TRAFFIC BY HAND

P. O. 4.5.5

- A. Let people know who is in charge while being firm and courteous.
- B. Signaling services, gestures and aids.
 1. How to stop traffic.
 2. How to start traffic.
 3. Signaling for a right turn, usually not necessary.
 4. Signaling for a left turn.
 5. Whistle blasts to stop and go.
 - a. Test whistles:
 - i. Stop – one (1) long loud blast.

- ii. Go – two (2) quick loud blasts.
 - b. Attention getter – several quick short blasts.
- C. Verbal commands.
 - 1. Difficult to use.
 - 2. Air conditioning, radios, heaters, etc.
- D. Vests and headgear.
- E. Baton or wand (at night).
- F. Flashlight (at night).
- G. Flares.
 - 1. Hazards.
 - a. Daytime uses.
 - b. Wind.
 - c. Flammable liquids.
 - d. Low areas where flammable liquids may flow.
 - e. Helicopters.
 - 2. Show flare and how to operate.

P. O. 4.5.3B2**IV. INTERSECTION CONTROL**

- A. Identify a safe location to conduct direction.
 - 1. Neutral zone.
 - 2. That place where debris is visible.
 - 3. Recognize people will be looking for the light, which may not be functional.
 - a. Stay within that area.
 - b. Move around to remain visible.

- B. Regulating traffic flow.
 - 1. Officer is usually more efficient than a signal.
 - 2. Signal lights.
 - a. Turn off, if possible.
 - b. Find out who has keys to the traffic light boxes in your area.
 - c. If not possible, try to regulate with light.
 - 3. Start traffic flow with problem street.
 - a. Largest of streets affected.
 - b. Most traffic flow.
 - 4. Let traffic flow every one and one-half (1½) to two (2) minutes.
 - 5. Clear left-turn lanes and allow the straight-through traffic in the same direction to go.
 - a. After the left-turn lane is clear, allow the opposing straight-through traffic to go.
 - b. Prior to stopping traffic, allow the other left-turn lane to go after stopping opposing traffic.
 - 6. Turn in a circle:
 - a. If you “lose your place,” stop all traffic and start over.
 - 7. Protect pedestrians; stop all traffic.
 - 8. Provide for safe passage of all emergency vehicles; stop all traffic.
 - 9. Prevent illegal parking.
 - 10. Try to let large vehicles pass through.
 - 11. People seeking information.
 - a. Generally, there is no time to assist them.
 - b. Too dangerous.

- c. Be courteous.
12. Directing cross traffic.
- a. Uncontrolled operation, if it is working on its own.
 - b. Simple interruption.
 - c. Grouping for interruption.
 - d. Simple alternation.
13. Detours, collisions or fires.
- a. Detour traffic into an area with access out.
 - b. Make sure it is not a dead-end street.
 - c. Collisions need room.
 - i. First responsibility is the injured.
 - ii. Protect the scene.
 - iii. Divert traffic around.
 - d. Detour in case of a fatal or serious collision.
 - i. May need to close the road.
 - ii. Protect the scene and evidence.
 - e. Fire commander on scene should tell the officer what is needed.
 - i. Detour traffic around the fire.
 - ii. Detour traffic so fire hoses are protected.
 - iii. Keep pedestrians out of the area.
14. Irregular intersections.
- a. Three (3)-street intersection.
 - i. To avoid confusion, one (1) leg at a time.

- ii. Continually communicate and work back to back with a partner.
 - iii. If no partner, work patiently.
 - b. “T” intersections.
 - i. Allow the main flow to go.
 - ii. Right turn for side-street traffic.
 - c. Offset intersections.
 - i. Move around to be seen.
 - ii. One (1) leg at a time.
 - iii. Work with a partner – communicate.
 - d. Freeway over or under passes.
 - i. Must be worked with a partner.
 - ii. One (1) person decides when to regulate.
 - iii. Communicate.
- 15. Officer safety.
 - a. Find a neutral zone.
 - b. Position to be seen by all.
 - c. Alternate position to accommodate the situation.
 - d. Use lighting aids.
 - i. Flares.
 - ii. Police vehicles, if needed.
 - a) Use overheads.
 - b) Do not always use headlights.
 - iii. Flashlights.

iv. Wands.

e. Barricades or pylons-cones.

P. O. 4.5.3B1

i. At night illumination is best.

ii. Patrol cars can be a barrier.

iii. Position far enough ahead of hazard for drivers to react. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** Discuss where to obtain in your area.

f. Night problems.

i. Vests illuminate officers.

ii. Use of flares.

a) Flashlights.

b) High-power lights blind drivers.

c) Illuminate hood.

d) Flares burn holes in uniforms.

g. Temporary traffic control devices:

i. Portable signs can be obtained through the “streets” department.

ii. Post signs in a location they can be seen by drivers.

iii. Make a signalized intersection into a four (4)-way stop.

iv. Use traffic cones, during daylight hours when possible.

P. O. 4.5.3B3

16. Manual operation of signal lights.

a. When traffic demands a longer phase.

b. When collisions require a longer phase.

c. When special events require a longer phase.

i. Parades.

ii. Fairgrounds.

- iii. Concerts.
 - iv. Sporting or cultural events.
 - d. Use hand-held trigger in lieu of stepping into the street, if possible.
 - e. Caution!!
 - i. High voltage will kill.
 - ii. Keep hands in a safe place.
 - f. Be ready to go into the street.
 - i. Have a traffic vest, whistle and all other equipment ready.
 - ii. Remember officer safety.
 - g. Be as visible as possible.
 - h. Phase lights with natural breaks in traffic.
 - i. Hold the amber phase for two (2) to three (3) seconds to accommodate traffic.
 - ii. Hold the red and green phase according to traffic or problem conditions.
- 17. Breaking traffic jams. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** Refer to A.R.S. §28-647A "Quick clearance law"
 - a. Start with vehicles that can move.
 - b. Give everyone a chance to move.
 - c. Divert traffic to fit the situation.
 - d. Reduce speed of vehicles in construction zones.
 - e. Use signs and barricades.
- 18. Unusual conditions.
 - a. Wires down.
 - i. Clearly mark the area in which the downed wires lie. Use flares, traffic

- cones, barricades, etc.
- ii. Allow no traffic into that area, including pedestrian traffic.
- b. Street collapse or holes in the street.
 - i. Clearly mark or barricade the hazard area.
 - ii. In areas where further collapse is likely, close the street and establish an alternate route.
- c. Fog, smoke, smog or blowing dust.
 - i. Highly hazardous traffic control situation.
 - ii. Wear a reflective vest.
 - iii. Use flares, even during daylight hours.
 - iv. Place a line of warning flares in the direction of on-coming traffic well in advance of your traffic control position. This will warn drivers that a hazard exists ahead.
 - v. If overhead traffic lights will not be used, make sure they are turned off or are in the flash mode. If the lights are left operational, drivers will key on the lights which are visible in fog long before the officer is visible.
 - vi. Use the whistle in addition to a flashlight to provide one (1) more device to attract the attention of drivers.
- d. Rain.
 - i. Remember the increase in stopping distances for vehicles on wet surfaces.
 - ii. Wear a reflective vest and appropriate rain gear.
 - iii. Use flares.
- e. Exaggerate hand signals and arm movements.

V. GENERAL RULES

- A. Select a position best suited for the intersection or problem area.
- B. Be consistent with signals and gestures.

- C. Keep stragglers alert and moving in their respective lanes.
- D. If a spill back begins to form, look immediately for the source of the problem and take action.
- E. Be cheerful but firm, do not shout or argue with motorists or pedestrians.

VI. USE OF CITIZENS FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL

- A. We have to be aware of liability if asking citizens to assist in directing traffic. **P. O. 4.5.1**
- B. Use citizens only when it is absolutely necessary. **P. O. 4.5.1A**
- C. Use a citizen after assessing the reliability of the person offering to help and if the help is absolutely necessary. **P. O. 4.5.1D**
 - 1. Give simple and specific instructions. **P. O. 4.5.1C**
 - 2. Give a demonstration to the citizen prior to allowing them to take over. **P. O. 4.5.1B**

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Review of performance objectives.
- B. Final questions and answers.
- C. Instructor closing comment(s).