



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

485 – TRAFFIC RELATED DUTIES

GENERAL ORDER: 2014-130
ISSUED: November 11, 2014

EFFECTIVE: November 11, 2014

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Captain Regina Howard
DATE: November 4, 2014

ACTION: Amends General Order 2014-83 (July 25, 2014)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 6.2.9, 6.2.12,
6.2.13

485.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to establish procedures for department members to ensure the safe and efficient movement of motor vehicles and pedestrians within the city of Milwaukee.

485.05 TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS (WILEAG 6.2.9)

A. MANUAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION

Manual traffic direction will be performed by members when necessary to ensure the safe efficient movement of motor vehicles and pedestrians. Circumstances and situations will dictate whether members should direct traffic or permit the traffic to flow without assistance.

1. Manual traffic direction by a member will be handled in a manner that will enable drivers and pedestrians to easily recognize and respond to clearly visible and easily understood audible signals (traffic whistle) and visual signals (hand signals) from the member.
2. Members may position their squad car to assist in traffic control or as a warning for oncoming motorists. The squad's emergency lights shall be activated, and if the member is out of the vehicle, all doors shall be locked.
3. Members may use flares, cones, barricades, and police tape to assist in traffic control.
 - a. Flares, traffic cones, barricades, or police tape should be utilized as additional traffic direction and spaced accordingly to give drivers ample time to react.

B. EQUIPMENT

1. The wearing of an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) compliant high visibility reflective garment is mandatory for any police member under the following circumstances:
 - a. When standing on the roadway directing traffic, lane closures, or investigating a traffic crash.

- b. When performing public safety duties at disasters.
 - c. As determined by the officer-in-charge at situations where member safety and visibility is paramount.
2. Flashlights with cones shall be used by the member during darkness or limited visibility conditions when conducting manual traffic direction.

485.10 ASSISTANCE TO ROADWAY USERS (WILEAG 6.2.12)

Members shall check on and offer to provide assistance to disabled or stranded motorists on all roadways within the city of Milwaukee. The safety of the vehicle occupants, the member, and other motorists is the first priority. Removal of vehicles posing a hazard or blocking traffic is essential to continuous safe and efficient traffic movement.

A. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

1. When a member observes a disabled vehicle on the roadway, the member shall make a reasonable effort to provide assistance. If that member is assigned to a call of a higher priority, the dispatcher shall be advised of the location of the disabled vehicle and the need for assistance. The dispatcher shall then assign another available member to respond for assistance as soon as practicable.
2. In most cases, a disabled motorist will require assistance. Members who encounter motorists in need of emergency medical services or assistance, shall request medical attention immediately. After arrangements for assistance are made, continued involvement by the member will be contingent on the availability of department resources, the vulnerability of the disabled motorist, and the safety of other roadway users. If necessary, members may assist a disabled motorist in having the vehicle towed in accordance with SOP 610 – Towing of Vehicles.

B. RESTRICTIONS

1. Members shall not jump-start another non-department vehicle using department vehicles without supervisory approval.
2. Members shall not attempt mechanical repairs to non-department vehicles.

C. LOCKOUTS

1. Members shall not use any type of lockout tool in non-emergency situations. Members shall refer members of the public to utilize a towing agency.
2. Members may make forced entry with department supplied equipment in emergency situations and shall follow the procedures set forth in SOP 950 – Damage Claims.
3. Members shall not use department vehicles to move or push disabled vehicles except in exigent circumstances.

485.15 HAZARDOUS HIGHWAY CONDITIONS (WILEAG 6.2.13)

- A. Adverse road and weather conditions may include, but are not limited to:
1. Debris in the roadway.
 2. Defects in the roadway itself.
 3. Downed power lines.
 4. Fallen trees.
 5. Hazardous roadway conditions due to weather.
- B. Upon discovering or being dispatched to an adverse road or weather condition affecting safe roadway travel, members are to advise their dispatcher of the adverse road or weather condition.
- C. Members shall request the help needed to remedy the hazard by contacting the appropriate city department, state agency, public utility, etc.
- D. Members shall provide traffic direction and control services, when necessary, until the condition has been corrected. Members shall conduct traffic and control services in accordance with section 485.05.



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CHIEF OF POLICE