
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



DIVISION DIRECTIVE

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Effective Date 11/08/95

SUBJECT ESTABLISHING ROADBLOCKS

POLICY Roadblocks during emergency situations will be established according to the following protocol. Protocol is based upon the current Memorandum of Understanding with allied agencies

PURPOSE To establish universally accepted procedures for emergency roadblocks which close highways and areas within the county to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Such roadblocks are not intended to interfere with the responsibilities of any agency charged with controlling or mitigating an emergency incident.

CODE REFERENCE

CASE LAW

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURE

A. Level One

Restricted Area: The Incident Commander has determined that access to a highway or area will be restricted to specific personnel and/or vehicles, for example: emergency responders, residents, and civilians trained in emergency assistance or other special procedures. Use the following guidelines:

1. For the purpose of this policy, emergency personnel can be civilians assisting with the incident. Proper identification is required.
2. Residents with pictured identification can pass through the roadblock. This can be by vehicle or on foot.
3. Relatives or friends attempting to assist a resident in the restricted area can be allowed access. These people must know the name and address of the person(s) they are attempting to help. Personnel at the closure should record the following information: Identification, vehicle license, destination, name of person they are assisting, and time of day of each person passing through the roadblock.

- a. If help is requested by citizens approaching the roadblock, reasonable action should be taken to accommodate them. These requests for help may include removing a physically impaired person(s). Roadblock personnel will get the necessary information from the requesting party. This information is to be relayed to the command post for action. The sheriff or police department will be responsible for evacuating people and/or property.
- b. There are services available for assistance in removing large and exotic animals. Roadblock personnel should be aware of this and should refer requests of this nature to the command post. In an extreme emergency such as a fast approaching fire, large animals should be released from their pens.

Use this level when a highway or area is threatened by the emergency situation, but the highway or area has not been ordered closed or evacuated.

B. Level Two

Emergency Personnel Only: Only personnel involved in the emergency operation are allowed on the highway or in the area. The identified closed roadways/areas are in immediate danger and needed by emergency vehicles to deal with the emergency incident. Residents and other non-emergency people are not allowed to enter the highway or area.

Use this level when an area or highway is being used to mitigate the emergency incident. Evacuations may or may not be in effect. Entry by non-emergency responders could cause a danger to emergency personnel or to the person entering the highway or area.

C. Level Three

Closed Highway or Area: The roadways and areas within the closed area are part of the emergency incident. Anyone travelling in the closed area would be in eminent danger. Emergency responders will be warned not to enter the area without permission of the incident commander. All unnecessary personnel will be kept out of the area.

1. Media personnel should be directed to the command post for briefing and directions to a safe location for viewing the incident. Crime scenes are not subject to media access unless directed so by the responsible agency incident commander.
2. Personnel assigned to evaluate and mitigate the incident may need access to the closed area. Roadblock personnel will not prohibit entry to these people. **They will warn them that the incident commander has closed the area to all personnel.** It is the responsibility of all personnel wanting access to a closed area to determine the risk of entering the area.
3. The first emergency responder to arrive at an emergency incident may close a highway or area. This may only be until the incident is evaluated and access determined.

Use this level when a highway or area is part of the emergency incident. Eminent danger exists to anyone entering the area. Evacuation of all non-emergency personnel should occur. Only personnel with the need to evaluate or mitigate the incident will be allowed access; i.e., Health Department personnel with special environmental suits may need to determine if it is safe to enter. Fire personnel may need to evaluate the scope and direction of a fire.

All three levels or any combination of the levels may be in use at one time. Communications with all agencies participating in a restricted or closed highway is very important. Use every means available to keep the command post and other emergency responder agencies advised on the road closures. Communication between emergency responders is of the utmost importance as all emergency responders will be dealing with the safety of their personnel and substantial increases in public calls.

