


FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL POLICY MANUAL

	SUBJECT EMERGENCY ROADBLOCKS	POLICY NUMBER 17.23
		ISSUE DATE 01/01/04
		REVISION DATE 11/23/15
		TOTAL PAGES 5

17.23.01 PURPOSE

To establish an Emergency Roadblock Program for use in high-risk situations

17.23.02 POLICY

Emergency roadblocks addressed in this policy are inherently dangerous in that they involve high-risk situations. Emergency roadblocks will be implemented in a manner that affords the minimal amount of risk to members, bystanders, hostages, and suspects. Troop Commanders are responsible for establishing liaisons with other law enforcement agencies in their areas to ensure proper coordination of emergency roadblock procedures.

17.23.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. **EMERGENCY ROADBLOCK** – A restriction, obstruction, device or procedure used or intended for the purpose of preventing free passage and/or observation of motor vehicles on a roadway in order to effect the apprehension of a suspect. Driver License and Vehicle Safety Inspection Checkpoints and Comprehensive Roadside Safety Checkpoints are not included in this definition.
- B. **HIGH-RISK SITUATION** – A hostage or armed felon incident occurring on the streets or highway.

17.23.04 OBJECTIVES

The Emergency Roadblock Program ensures that members are able to respond to High-Risk Situations in a uniform and coordinated manner.

Upon notification of an on-going High-Risk Situation, any supervisor may initiate an emergency roadblock as outlined in the Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide (HSMV 60405). Establishment of emergency roadblocks is to be coordinated with other law enforcement agencies in the area.

17.23.05 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Director is responsible for appointing a Statewide Roadblock Coordinator, who will also be the Statewide Emergency Operations Coordinator.

- B. The Statewide Roadblock Coordinator is responsible for:
1. Reviewing the Emergency Roadblock Program and Procedures as requested by the Director. The Statewide Roadblock Coordinator will forward this information to the Director via the chain of command.
 2. Maintaining records of all roadblock activities.
 3. Reviewing all roadblock related policy and associated materials on a periodic basis.
- C. Regional Communications Center (RCC) Managers are responsible for the maintenance of the Emergency Roadblock Program within their areas of responsibility and shall:
1. Ensure that each district conducts a minimum of one simulated roadblock exercise (10-38X) each month, in conjunction with the district supervisor.
 2. Ensure that a report of the troop's roadblock activities is forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief Duty Officer and the Statewide Roadblock Coordinator each month.
 3. Familiarize RCC personnel with the Emergency Roadblock Program.
 4. Assist district personnel in conducting simulated roadblock exercises.
- D. District Commanders shall serve as Roadblock Coordinators and are responsible for:
1. Overseeing monthly emergency roadblock related exercises in coordination with the RCC Manager.
 2. Establishing roadblock points for each county in the district.
 3. Providing the Troop Commander or designee a list, and any updates thereafter, of all roadblock points established within his/her district.
- E. Troop Commanders or designee shall:
1. Maintain the Troop's Roadblock Card. Troop Commanders or designee shall issue the Troop Roadblock Card to all members within his/her troop, the appropriate RCC Manager and the adjoining Troop Commanders.
 2. In the event an emergency roadblock is necessary, the Troop Commander or designee shall:
 - a. Ensure notification of the Troop Commanders in adjoining troops, the appropriate Chief of Patrol Operations and the Deputy Director.
 - b. Authorize the call-out of additional personnel, as required.
 - c. Request additional resources from other troops.

- d. Coordinate roadblock activities that involve multiple troops, unless directed otherwise by the appropriate Chief of Patrol Operations.
 - e. Authorize the activation of a Special Response Team (SRT) as necessary.
 - f. Provide command oversight for all roadblock related activities.
- F. The Troop Watch Supervisor (TWS) shall:
- 1. Ensure notification of the appropriate District Commander and Troop Commander.
 - 2. Coordinate the Florida Highway Patrol's (FHP) activities with other law enforcement agencies.
 - 3. Evaluate the coverage of primary and secondary roads.
 - 4. Establish roving patrols as appropriate.
 - 5. Advise the Troop Commander on the need for and the assignment of aircraft and SRT.
 - 6. Advise the Troop Commander on the need for additional members, reserve/auxiliary members, and RCC personnel.
 - 7. Assign supervisors to appropriate field locations.
 - 8. Coordinate the release of information to the media, unless the troop Public Affairs Officer (PAO) is available.
- G. The On-Scene Supervisor or Senior Trooper is responsible for:
- 1. Ensuring notification of the TWS.
 - 2. Evaluating the situation and determining the type of roadblock to be employed.
 - 3. Dispatching one member to the crime scene to obtain relevant information.

NOTE: If no supervisor is available, the senior trooper will fulfill these responsibilities until relieved by a supervisor.

17.23.06 PROCEDURES

A. EMERGENCY ROADBLOCK PROCEDURES GUIDE

- 1. The Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide (HSMV 60405) is confidential. The guide is exempt from public release under Section 119.071, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Each member will be issued an Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide. The guide is to be kept in the member's patrol vehicle and

maintained in such a manner to ensure its immediate accessibility, which will be documented on the Monthly Inspection Report.

3. A copy of the Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide will be maintained at each radio console in every RCC.
4. Supervisors will ensure the immediate accessibility of the Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide in the member's patrol vehicle and/or office.
5. The Emergency Roadblock Procedures Guide is adopted by reference. Failure of employees to adhere to or carryout applicable provisions may result in disciplinary action.

B. ROADBLOCK CARD

1. Each troop's roadblock card is confidential, and therefore is exempt from public release under Section 119.071, Florida Statutes.
2. Each member will be issued a FHP Roadblock Card. The card is to be kept in the member's patrol vehicle and maintained in such a manner to ensure its immediate accessibility, which will be documented on the Monthly Inspection Report.
3. Statewide FHP Roadblock information will be maintained at each radio console in every RCC.
4. Supervisors will ensure the immediate accessibility of the FHP Roadblock Card in the member's patrol vehicle and/or office.

C. Each RCC will maintain a printout of all emergency roadblock activities including both simulated and actual roadblock occurrences. A Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) incident will be created for roadblock activities, including exercises. The CAD incident will record, at a minimum; members assigned location of roadblock, type and code of roadblock. The RCC Manager will forward a copy of the CAD incident to the Statewide Roadblock Coordinator after each occurrence.

D. ROADBLOCK CODES

1. CODE YELLOW – Armed Felon
2. CODE RED – Hostage
3. CODE BLUE – Police Hostage/Police Death/Police Serious Bodily Injury

E. ROADBLOCK TYPES

1. 10-38A – Visual Only
2. 10-38B – Physical
3. 10-38C – Physical and Search

4. 10-38X – A roadblock exercise used to familiarize members and RCC personnel with the codes and procedures used in the Emergency Roadblock Program.

F. **SIMULATED ROADBLOCK EXERCISES**

1. Each district will conduct a minimum of one simulated roadblock exercise each month.
2. CODE BLUE will **NEVER** be used during a roadblock exercise.
3. Only the 10-38X type will be used for simulated roadblock exercises. Members will be dispatched to their assigned roadblock post; however, the member does not physically respond to that location. Within five minutes, the member will advise the RCC that he/she has arrived on post (simulated).
4. Refer to the Roadblock Procedures Guide and the respective troop Roadblock Card for specific procedures on roadblock exercises.

G. **FLORIDA BLUE ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (Code Blue)**

1. The Florida Blue Alert Notification System utilizes the same technologies employed by the Amber Alert Plan to notify the public and law enforcement agencies of critical information when a law enforcement officer is killed, suffered serious bodily injury, or is missing while in the line of duty and the suspect, who is considered to pose an imminent threat to the public, is still at large. (See FHP Policy 22.08 for further information regarding the Florida Blue Alert Notification System.)
2. Member's becoming aware of any situation which meets the criteria (Officer killed, seriously injured or missing) of activating a Florida Blue Alert shall immediately notify the appropriate RCC.
3. Appropriate communication center personnel shall activate (or cancel) the Blue Alert as dictated in their standard operating procedures.
4. Roadblock protocols outlined in this policy shall be adhered to in the event of a Code Blue activation.

17.23.07 TRAINING

- A. The provisions of this policy and the Emergency Roadblock Guide will be reviewed with every member and RCC personnel on a periodic basis. This may be accomplished through PowerDMS or iLearn.
- B. All training will be documented and forwarded to the Statewide Roadblock Coordinator and the FHP Training Academy.