


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 6.08</p>	<p>Date of Issue</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Effective Date</p> <p>2/23/2016</p>	<p>Revision Date</p>
<p>Subject: ROADBLOCKS</p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as: Roadblocks Uniform Patrol Division</p>	<p>State Certification Standards:</p>		
<p>Special Instructions:</p>			

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to prescribe the policies and procedures of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office regarding the use of Roadblocks.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that roadblocks will be used in accordance to current and future statute, judicial decisions, and in accordance with accepted law enforcement procedures.

DISCUSSION

The use of roadblocks is a matter that can greatly endanger both law enforcement officers and the general public in the event the roadblock is either improperly utilized or improperly placed. It is very important for all personnel taking part in a roadblock to be extremely aware of all the legal aspects of the roadblock.

DEFINITIONS

PHYSICAL ARREST — Any enforcement action that consists of taking persons into custody for the purpose of holding or detaining them to answer a charge before the court.

O.C.G.A. — The Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

ROAD — The portion of a highway that includes both the roadway and the shoulder.

ROADBLOCK — A temporary operation in which law enforcement or other authorized personnel stop all or some traffic to inspect individual vehicles or their contents or to interview drivers.

ROADWAY — The portion of a highway, improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, exclusive of the shoulder.

I. ROADBLOCKS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

- A. A roadblock is designated to prevent the escape of a fugitive who is fleeing in a motor vehicle from a crime scene or attempting to evade arrest.
- B. A roadblock will only be used when it is essential to immediately stop the subject and there are no other reasonable alternatives available to affect the arrest.
- C. A roadblock will only be used with the expressed prior approval of the Field Supervisor or higher authority.
- D. Before granting authority, the Field Supervisor must evaluate all available information to determine whether an emergency situation exist; the reasonable availability of other alternatives; and whether a roadblock can be established in accordance with the conditions outlined below.
- E. If possible, the Field Supervisor should assume command of the situation at the scene of the roadblock unless he or she is unable to reach the location before its implementation.
- F. The use of roadblocks may require the use of, or result in, the application of deadly force. Consequently, they should only be used under the most extreme circumstances involving the following:
 - 1. The more serious the crime, the greater justification for the roadblock. The following are examples of situations that may require a roadblock to stop a person fleeing the scene of a serious crime: or
 - 2. Any offense involving the actual use of a deadly weapon.
- G. The existence of an immediate threat of physical danger to the public, the greater the justification for the roadblock. The following are some examples of traffic circumstances where a suspect may place the public in immediate danger:
 - 1. Reckless driving by weaving through traffic causing others to take emergency measures; or
 - 2. Suspected DUI.

II. REQUIRED CONDITIONS

- A. A roadblock may only be used if the following conditions can be satisfied:
 - 1. Because of the inherent dangers to officers and the general public, a roadblock may only be used if there are no other available means to stop the suspect. Stop-sticks should be the first method attempted, if reasonably possible and available, to stop a fleeing motorist;

2. A roadblock may only be established if it provides 500 feet of visibility to allow all approaching vehicles to come to a safe stop. Roadblocks will not be situated:
 - a. Immediately over the crest of a hill;
 - b. Within a turn in the roadway;
 - c. Unless the only vehicle reasonably expected as the first to approach the roadblock is the subject and the use of deadly force is authorized.
- B. A roadblock should not be used:
 1. If the roadway is slick or otherwise treacherous to stop; or
 2. Under conditions causing reduced visibility, unless it can be adequately illuminated to give approaching motorists sufficient warning to come to a safe stop.

III. ROADBLOCK TYPES

- A. A fixed roadblock is designed for use at a designated location in advance of a pursuit; and
- B. A circle system is used to completely contain the suspect in a given area surrounding a crime scene, whereby every possible avenue of escape is blocked and each motorist is stopped for questioning.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Once the supervisor has provided the authorization to establish a roadblock, the following procedures shall be adhered to:
 1. Use only departmental vehicles. Under no circumstances will civilian vehicles be used as part of the roadblock.;
 2. When establishing a fixed roadblock, personnel will not remain inside any vehicle, but will seek safety and protection behind available natural and/or manmade barriers when the subject approaches;
 3. Activate all emergency warning devices to provide necessary warning to on-coming motorists;
 4. Establish the roadblock on preferably flat and straight roadway locations that offer at least 500 feet of visibility to approaching drivers;
 5. Establish an escape route through the roadblock in such a manner to allow the maneuver of a vehicle at a reasonable speed. **The roadway will not be completely blocked unless the use of deadly force is justified;**

6. Position the patrol vehicle(s) at a 45 degree angle facing the direction of traffic flow, so that the officer can both observe and maintain mobility; and
 7. When using the circle system and many vehicles need to be checked, it may be more desirable to slow traffic to a speed that will enable the officer to check passing vehicles and occupants without bringing them to a complete stop.
- B. When a suspect approaches the roadblock, firearms may be drawn and made ready for use. **Firearms will not be discharged at oncoming vehicles except when confronted by an immediate deadly force situation** caused by the driver or other occupants.
- C. Upon completion of the operation, an Incident Report shall be made by the supervisor authorizing the roadblock.



By Order of the Sheriff: **Chad K. Nichols**
Sheriff, Rabun County