


<p>RABUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</p>  <p>General Order Number: 6.13</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: <b>TRAFFIC DIRECTION AND CONTROL</b></p>	<p>Amends:</p>	<p>Rescinds:</p>	
<p>Index as: Traffic Direction and Control Uniform Patrol Division</p>	<p>State Certification Standards: 5.13</p>		

**PURPOSE**

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

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office that personnel who engage in traffic control and traffic will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that will enable the general public to safely move through congested areas or accident scenes.

**DISCUSSION**

Personnel assigned to any division or command of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office may be called upon to assist in traffic direction and control. However, because of the nature of assignment, most traffic direction and control will fall upon the Uniform Patrol Division.

The provisions of this General Order are applicable to all personnel of the Rabun County Sheriff's Office who may direct traffic.

**DEFINITIONS**

**ROADWAY** — That portion of a highway, improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicle traffic, exclusive of the shoulder.

## I. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. Traffic direction and control are necessary to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Appropriate traffic direction and control procedures will be taken at those times and locations where law enforcement authority and/or human intervention is required to ensure public safety and efficiency and until such time as the problem is resolved. Conditions that may dictate the manual control of traffic include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. At the scenes of traffic accidents or congestion;
  - 2. At fire or emergency medical situations;
  - 3. When mechanical traffic signals are malfunctioning or inoperative;
  - 4. During periods of adverse road and weather conditions; or
  - 5. At designated special events and functions.
- B. Officers will wear high-visibility equipment for safety when directing or controlling traffic in the roadway. This equipment includes:
  - 1. Reflective vest;
  - 2. Approved headgear; and
  - 3. Flashlight and traffic cones, when available, during reduced visibility or darkness.
- C. The hand signals and gestures used to direct traffic will be those prescribed in the Georgia Peace Officer Reference Text (PORT).
- D. Hand signals and gestures must be consistent. If not, motorists or pedestrians can become easily confused, resulting in further traffic congestion, accidents, disrespect toward the officer, or traffic law violations.
- E. While performing traffic control, it is important that officers present a professional appearance, by standing straight with weight equally distributed and the feet slightly apart. Always stand facing toward the traffic that is being stopped, with the side of the body toward the vehicles authorized to move.
- F. Use emergency warning devices to provide adequate warning to motorists and pedestrians. This becomes especially critical while conducting traffic direction and control on hilly, icy/wet roads, or during periods of reduced visibility.
- G. Temporary Traffic Control Devices
  - 1. Traffic cones, flares, and barricades may be used to control traffic and pedestrians during emergency situations or special events.
  - 2. Supervisors may obtain these devices at either the Road Check Trailer or contact the local DOT office.
  - 3. Temporary devices will be removed when the event or emergency situation is over and will be returned to the appropriate location.
- H. Manual Operation Of Traffic Control Signals

1. Officers will not normally operate traffic control signals, however if the situation requires it, officers will do so. Under most circumstances, officers must physically control the flow of traffic.
2. When a traffic control signal is inoperative or defective, officers shall report the situation to the Rabun County Central Communications Center for necessary remedial action, and/or notification of the proper authorities.

#### I. Rerouting Traffic

Because of the nature of the incident, it may be necessary to temporarily reroute traffic. To accomplish this effectively, officers should consider the following possible limitations that may influence the alternate route selected:

1. Will the route be able to handle the volume of traffic?
2. Will bridges be able to support heavy vehicles?
3. Are there obstructions that will prevent the movement of large vehicles? and
4. Are there construction sites, densely populated neighborhoods, commercial areas, narrow roads, or other potential obstructions that may adversely affect the traffic flow?

#### J. Traffic Control At Traffic Crashes

1. Normally minor traffic accidents do not present a major problem relative to traffic direction and control. In such cases, the responding officer should note the position of each vehicle and other relevant physical evidence and have the vehicles moved to a safe location to restore the traffic flow.
2. A serious crash involving death, injury, or extensive property damage may require protection of the incident scene for a more thorough investigation. In such cases, officers shall follow these procedures:
3. Request sufficient manpower to handle traffic direction responsibilities or to assist in working the crash;
4. Detour traffic as necessary;
5. Secure the scene until the investigation is complete; and
6. Continue traffic control duties until traffic flow is normal.

#### K. Traffic crashes on Ga. 15, and on any roadway with two or more lanes in the same direction of travel, present special control and safety considerations.

1. Immediate removal of involved vehicles: when a crash occurs with no personal injury, death, or extensive property damage, the vehicle(s) shall be immediately removed from the roadway into a safe refuge on the shoulder, emergency lane, or median so that the normal traffic flow can continue as soon as possible. (O.C.G.A. 40-6-275)

2. Serious traffic crashes involving death, injury, or extensive property damage may require the closing of one or more lanes of traffic until the completion of all investigative responsibilities and the removal of damaged vehicles. The Department of Transportation will be notified whenever it becomes necessary to close any portion of a state highway.
  3. Officers will ensure that all debris, vehicle parts, and other material hazards related to the motor vehicle crash are removed from the roadway before the incident scene is open to normal traffic flow. The removal of crash debris is the responsibility of wrecker service employees, unless ordered not to do so by officers due to investigating circumstances at the scene. (O.C.G.A. 40-6-276)
  4. At traffic crash and/or fire scenes, officers may be required to reroute traffic around the restricted area, as designated by fire fighting personnel. Officers will establish ingress to, and egress from, the scene by emergency vehicles. No vehicle will be allowed to cross fire hoses without the approval of the senior on-scene fire official. (O.C.G.A. 40-6-248)
- L. An officer may have to direct traffic during adverse road and/or weather conditions. Normally, such conditions are temporary in nature, but may exist over a prolonged period, for several hours or even days. When such circumstances exist, officers shall use barricades to properly identify the hazards and to reroute traffic as required.



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