

GENERAL ORDER 61.8.1

Roadway Hazards

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Outlines procedures to deal with hazardous roadway conditions.

DISCUSSION

Roadway and roadside hazards are contributing factors in many traffic accidents. In order to mitigate these factors, officers shall report and/or correct such conditions.

POLICY

I

When a roadway hazard is reported by a citizen or seen by an officer, the appropriate agency shall be notified to take remedial action. Officers shall ensure that traffic control is established through appropriate means.

II

Debris in the roadway shall be moved off of the road far enough to eliminate any potential danger to motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians. When practical small items can be placed in patrol vehicle and disposed of as soon as possible. Public works shall be contacted to dispose of other items. In the case of hazardous materials, the Springfield Fire and Life Safety Department shall be notified.

III

Any hazardous roadway damage shall be reported to communications who shall contact public works for service and/or repair.

IV

If the hazard is in the form of roadway defects or defects in highway safety features, or roadway lighting, the officer shall request that communications notify public works of the problem.

V

If the hazard is in the form of blocked, missing, or downed traffic control signs or devices, the officer shall notify Communications and request Public Works to respond to repair the problem. The watch commander shall determine if an officer needs to stand by until the hazard is abated.

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