

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations Guidelines

IDOT/DTS

Mandatory Grantee Meeting



Illinois Department
of Transportation

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations

Legal, Effective, and Safe.

These points are consistent with those specified in court decisions, including the United States Supreme Court ruling :

Michigan Department of State Police v. Sitz,

Upholds the constitutionality of sobriety checkpoints

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations

General Guidelines.

- Part of an ongoing program to deter impaired driving
- The RSC place under existing policy and guidelines
- Site selection
- Use of warning devices
- Displaying a visible police authority
- Logistics of chemical testing at sobriety checkpoint
- Contingency planning – *Frequency Changes*
- Detection and investigation techniques
- Operational briefings
- Communication strategy – *Media notification*
- Data collection and evaluation
- Evaluation of sobriety checkpoint operations

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations *General Guidelines.*

Operational Plan

*For conducting sobriety checkpoints that focuses on the responsibilities of the personnel. Michigan vs. Sitz
The most critical factor to a roadblock*

Supervision

The checkpoint supervisor coordinates all checkpoint activities in accordance with the department's operational plan.

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations *General Guidelines.*

Traffic Flow and Vehicle Stopping

Determining traffic flow will suggest whether all vehicles can be examined without causing a traffic build-up.

*If the traffic volume precludes stopping every vehicle, a nondiscretionary scheme should be adopted, **in advance**, for stopping some subset of vehicles.*

If every vehicle is not stopped, the method used to determine which ones will must appear in the operational plan authorizing the use of the sobriety checkpoint.

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations *General Guidelines.*

Contingency Plan

*Any deviation from the predetermined plan for stopping vehicles should be thoroughly documented and the reason for the deviation given (e.g., traffic backing up, intermittent inclement weather). **Frequency Log***

Specifying the method for selecting motorists to be contacted will ensure consistency and objectivity.

Sobriety Checkpoint Operations *General Guidelines.*

NHTSA Roadside Safety Check Protocols

IACP - Highway Safety Desk Book

Section 5 – Roadside Safety Checks & DWI Sobriety Checkpoints

www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/enforce/deskbk.html

NHTSA/ USDOT - Saturation Patrols and Sobriety Checkpoints

DOT HS 809 063

www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/alcohol/saturation_patrols/index.html

Low Staffing Sobriety Checkpoints

DOT HS 809 999

www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/enforce/LowStaffing_Checkpoints/