

Hamden Police Department

General Orders

Policy Number: 022-003

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Traffic Services

Rescinds:

Title: Highway Hazards

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for handling hazards to vehicles or pedestrian traffic and the removal of debris in the road.

POLICY

The Hamden Police Department is committed to respond to any report of hazardous road conditions to take such action as necessary to protect the public, including notifying the appropriate agency to remedy the situation.

Procedures

A. Road Conditions.

1. An officer shall be assigned to investigate any report of a hazardous road condition within the Town.
2. Hazardous road conditions may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Debris in the road.
 - b. Trash.
 - c. Spilled consumer goods.
 - d. Downed trees and limbs.
 - e. Spilled oil in the road.
 - f. Flooded roadways or bridges.
 - g. Missing manhole covers.
 - h. Potholes or road cave-ins.
 - i. Icy or snow covered roads.
3. If the debris or road conditions create a danger to vehicles or pedestrians, it may be necessary for an officer to stand by at the scene or close a section of a roadway until the situation can be corrected.

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4. If the roadway has to be closed the following procedures are to be used:

- a. For a short term a cruiser with emergency lights, road cones and flares may be used.
- b. For extended periods the Town or State Highway Department will be notified to set up barricade.
- c. Communications will note the time of notification on the CAD.

B. Hazardous Materials.

1. The Town Fire Department will have the primary responsibility in their respective areas for providing the equipment and procedures for the handling and containment of hazardous materials.
2. Officers responding to incidents or accidents involving hazardous materials shall:
 - a. Use extreme caution in their approach to the area due to the possibility of toxic fumes.
 - b. Assess the situation and attempt to determine the type and quantity of material involved.
 - c. Notify communications to have the Fire Department notified.
 - d. Isolate the area and prevent all non-essential access.
 - e. Evacuate people from the immediate area, if necessary.
3. The Environmental Protection Agency will be notified of all chemical spills and of petroleum product spills of more than five gallons. This will normally be done by the Fire Department Dispatcher.