

# 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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/enforce/LowStaffing_Checkpoints/)