

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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Long-Term Road Closure and Traffic Emergency Response Team (TERT)		



Cross Reference: 5.05, 5.06

I. Introduction

- A. The Traffic Emergency Response Team (TERT) is made up of personnel from the Division of Police and other City of Columbus divisions who are contacted to respond and assist with the rerouting of traffic in emergency situations when there is a complete or partial closure of major arterial city streets or freeways, to include I-70, I-71, I-270, I-670, **US 33**, SR 315, SR **161**, and SR 104. TERT members will respond when contacted by Communications personnel. Responding TERT personnel should have a picture ID card showing their name and city division and should be given access to closed streets or freeways. Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel will be contacted and will also respond for closures of I-70, I-71, I-270, and I-670.
- B. Maintenance Vehicle 730 is operated by personnel from the City of Columbus Division of Traffic Management and is available **24 hours a day**, seven days a week. If an emergency situation requires the repair of a traffic signal or placement of temporary traffic control devices such as portable stop signs, personnel should request Communications personnel to contact Maintenance Vehicle 730 to respond.

II. Policy Statements

- A. Sworn supervisors should request that TERT personnel respond to emergency situations in which major arterial city streets or freeways will be closed for more than two hours and will cause significant traffic delays. Supervisors should take into account the time of day, location, ongoing local events, and any other factors that the closure may affect against the need to quickly re-establish traffic flow before requesting TERT personnel.
- B. Sworn supervisors shall work in conjunction with TERT and any other responding personnel to develop and implement a plan to re-route traffic and re-establish normal traffic flow as soon as practical. For situations affecting city streets, Patrol personnel should be used unless assistance from **the Traffic Operations Section** was requested and Traffic **Operations Section** personnel have assumed control. For situations affecting freeways, Traffic **Operations Section** personnel should be used with assistance from Patrol personnel as needed. Supervisors should assign sworn personnel to the incident while ensuring police service is not greatly affected.

III. Procedures

A. Complete or Partial Road Closure

1. First Responding Sworn Personnel
 - a. If a traffic crash is involved, render aid and request EMS and other Division of Fire personnel as needed. Either begin the investigation or ensure sworn personnel are responding to complete an investigation.
 - b. Notify the affected precinct supervisor and/or Freeway Patrol Unit supervisor of the situation and provide an estimate of how long the roadway may be closed.
 - c. If needed, close off the roadway. Request additional personnel as needed.
 - d. Work traffic control until either relieved or normal traffic flow is re-established.
2. Sworn Supervisor
 - a. Acknowledge Communications personnel when notified of the incident.
 - (1) For incidents involving mainly city streets, a supervisor covering the affected precinct should assume control. If available, contact the Motorcycle Unit to respond and assume control.
 - (2) For incidents involving mainly freeways, a Traffic **Operations Section** supervisor should assume control if available.
 - b. If TERT is not needed:
 - (1) Ensure sworn personnel are assigned to work traffic control until normal traffic flow is re-established.
 - (2) If a traffic crash is involved, ensure sworn personnel are assigned to investigate.
 - (3) Monitor the situation and direct as needed.
 - c. If TERT is needed:
 - (1) Order the roadway closed.
 - (2) Ensure the zone lieutenant, the affected precinct supervisor, and a Traffic **Operations Section** Supervisor are notified.
 - (3) Respond and establish an Incident Command Post.
 - (4) Establish a separate radio talk-group for responding personnel. Use radio channel Traffic 1 if available.
 - (5) Contact the Communications Supervisor and:
 - (a) Notify of the traffic closure.
 - (b) Request TERT's response.
 - (c) Advise of the location of the Incident Command Post.
 - (d) Advise of the separate radio talk-group being used.
 - (6) Assign sworn personnel to respond as needed.

- (7) If a traffic crash is involved, ensure sworn personnel are assigned to investigate.
 - (8) Work with TERT and responding personnel to establish and implement a plan to re-route traffic.
 - (9) Contact the Headquarters Operations Unit Sergeant and establish guard duty for sworn personnel working traffic if the closure will be for more than two hours.
3. Communications Supervisor
- a. When notified by a sworn supervisor that TERT is needed:
 - (1) Make the appropriate emergency contacts to notify TERT.
 - (2) Ensure the Columbus Division of Fire is notified.
 - (3) Notify Public Information Unit personnel.
 - b. Assign a 911 Emergency Dispatcher to monitor the radio talk-group used for the incident.