Chapter 13 – IFPO -CPO

Traffic Control

Stop Signs

- The three functions of a STOP sign:

1. Regulates traffic flow
2. Clarifies the question of right of way at intersections
3. Reduces motor vehicle accidents at intersections .

Automatic Traffic Signals

There are two (2) main types of automatic traffic signals:

1. Traffic lights with three colors-sometimes with turning arrow.
2. Visual and audio warning signals-common at railway crossings

Why Add a Traffic Control Officer?

- Usually traffic lights are usually enough but not always.
- Manned traffic control required due to:
  - Construction sites
  - Accidents
  - Rush hour periods
  - Special events
  - High volume traffic
  - Need to verify identification

Traffic Control

Traffic control is:

- Directing and supervising traffic at gates and intersections and patrolling parking areas.
- Performed to keep traffic moving with a minimum of delay and maximum of safety.
- Required in all types of weather, protective clothing must be readily available.
- Staying safe. Proper clothing includes high-visibility material (Traffic vest) which should be worn at all times.

Roadway Positions

There are, generally, two (2) positions a traffic controller can take to direct traffic:

1. **Center of the Intersection:** This position affords the greatest visibility but is also the most hazardous.

- Usually selected when signals are inoperative
- There is little pedestrian traffic.
- Traffic is not moving at a high rate of speed

2. **The Corner Position:** Provides the greatest personal safety and better pedestrian control.

The corner position chosen when there is:

- Heavy pedestrian traffic and/or vehicular turns.
- Can be controlled by an officer standing a few feet off the curb line

Posture

- Assume a military bearing, weight evenly distributed on both feet.
- Serves to send notice you are in control.
- When not directly engaged in signaling traffic, stand at ease, facing traffic with hands at your sides.
- When directing traffic, shoulders must be in line with flow of traffic and attention must be directed to the vehicular movement.

Hand Signals

Gestures must be:

- Uniform in nature – NO unusual movements
- Clearly defined
- Understandable

Gestures must not cause confusion, hesitation or leads to accidents or violations.

Hand Gestures: Stopping Traffic

There are two clearly defined motions that are required to stop traffic:

1. Select the vehicle to be stopped.
   - Look directly at the driver while pointing in his/her direction with a fully extended arm.
   - Hold this position until you are observed by the driver through direct eye contact.
2. Raise hand so palm extended.
   - Maintain until vehicle stops.

Repeat motions with traffic moving in the opposite direction.

Starting vehicular movement on the cross street:

- Pivot a quarter turn
- Shoulders should be parallel to vehicles waiting to move
- When intersection is cleared, turn your head
- Attract attention by pointing to the lead vehicle
- Motion to driver to move by turning palm inward, bringing your hand up and over to the chin, bending the arm at the elbow..
- Increase their speed by increasing your motions.

The Whistle

The whistle is used to:

- Attracts the attention of motorists and pedestrians.
- Facilitates compliance with hand signals

When improperly used, creates confusion

Should be blown loudly, not tooted lightly

It is a communication tool.

One Long Blast:

- Attract motorists attention to officers hand signals to stop or halt

Two Short Blasts:

- With a wave means start or go

Three Short Blasts:

- Giving warning of unusual or dangerous conditions

Traffic Control

Traffic controllers are responsible for the following:

1. Regulating the flow of traffic
2. Control and assist turning vehicles
3. Coordinate the flow of traffic with the adjacent intersections
4. Protect pedestrians
5. Assist people seeking information
6. Assisting emergency vehicles: **All vehicle and pedestrian traffic must stop and yield to emergency vehicles.**

Regulating the Flow of Traffic

- Give priority of movement to the most heavily travelled areas by allowing longer periods of running time.
- Traffic movement must be of equal and adequate time if the intersecting streets carry equal traffic volume.
- Long traffic runs are preferable as they reduce the loss of time from frequent changes of traffic directions.

Control and Assist Turning Vehicles

- Supervise all vehicular turns.
- If traffic is heavy or a spillback is caused by traffic problems from other intersections, determine the preference of traffic direction.
- If turning vehicles increase the amount of congestion, direct traffic to continue straight ahead during the period of the backup.

Other Traffic Issues to Consider

- Prevent improper turns, right turns from left lanes, or left turns from right lanes.
- Don’t allow vehicles to cut others off.
- Allow vehicles that present an immediate hazard to pass (HAZMAT type vehicles.)
- Determine priority of flow. Where is the heaviest traffic flowing?
- Hold pedestrians back to give preference to vehicular traffic in heavily congested situations.

Gate Duty

Directing traffic at of from a gate would require the following

1. Checking passes
2. Checking trip tickets
3. Regulating special types of traffic flow

- Be visible to approaching traffic
- Be in a position to see approaching traffic
- Do not unnecessarily interfere with traffic flow

Traffic Control Equipment

- **Clothing:** Dress appropriately to weather conditions.
- **High-Viz Vests and Armlets:** Greater visibility
- **Flashlight:** With traffic cone
- **Whistle:** Used with hand gestures
- **Radio:** Communication link
- **Signs:** Stop, Go, flags, etc.
- **Pass/Badge:** If required

Traffic Calming

- Traffic calming encourages more attentive driving, reduced speed, reduced crashes, and a greater tendency to yield to pedestrians.
- Can include the following engineering methods:
  1. Narrowing
  2. Vertical Deflection
  3. Horizontal Deflection
  4. Block or Restrict Access

Narrowing

- Narrowing makes slower speeds more natural to drivers.
- Narrowing measures include the following:
  - Lane narrowing
  - Curb extensions
  - Removing lanes
  - Pedestrian refuges or small islands
  - Converting one-way streets into two-way streets

Vertical Deflection

- Vertical deflection is raising a portion of the road to force drivers to slow down.
- Vertical deflection measures include:
  - Speed bumps
  - Speed humps
  - Speed cushions
  - Speed tables
  - Raised pedestrian crossings
  - Changing of surface material/texture

Horizontal Deflection

- Methods that cause the driver to have to make the vehicle swerve slightly and reduce speed.
- Horizontal deflection methods include:
  - **Chicanes** which create a horizontal deflection that causes vehicles to slow as they would for a curve.
  - Pedestrian Refuges
  - Curb extensions

Block or Restrict Access

- Traffic calming methods include:
  - Median diverters to prevent left turns or movement through residential areas.
  - Converting an intersection into a cul-de-sac or dead end.
  - Boom barriers which restrict through-traffic to authorized vehicles only.
  - Closing of streets to create pedestrian zones.