ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DIRECTIVE
ENF-023, ROADSIDE SAFETY CHECKS

I. POLICY

The Illinois State Police (ISP) will promote the safety of those using the public highways and provide a deterrent for those who violate statutes contained in the Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC).

II. AUTHORITY

The ISP, in accordance with the authority granted by 20 ILCS 2610/16, “Illinois State Police Act” will enforce the provisions of the IVC. Enforcement will be specifically, but not exclusively to the following:

II.A. 625 ILCS 5/6-101, Drivers must have licenses or permits

II.B. 625 ILCS 5/11-501, "Driving while under the influence of alcohol, other drug or drugs, intoxicating compound or compounds or any combination thereof"

II.C. 625 ILCS 5/12, “Equipment of Vehicles”

III. PROCEDURES

Pre-detail requirements - an ISP Roadside Safety Check Operational Plan (ISP 4-052) will be completed to include the following information:

III.B.4. The District Commander, or his/her designee, will specify in writing when and where the check will be conducted. The location selected shall be consistent with the objectives of this directive.

III.B.5. When the date, time, and location of the check are specified, the relevant Zone Commander will be notified for possible investigative support.

III.B.6. Close cooperation will be arranged between the safety check personnel and the Regional Communications Center to assure rapid reply in those cases where radio communication is necessary.

III.B.7. Check to determine that Illinois Secretary of State (SOS) computer files will be accessible, and there should be no anticipated delay in response time.

III.B.8. The selection sequence of the vehicles to be stopped (i.e., every vehicle, every fifth, tenth, or fifteenth vehicle) will be prescribed and uniformly applied. Only the detail supervisor, who must be a Master Sergeant or higher rank, is authorized to change the pattern.

III.B.9. Assigned officers do not have the authority to change the operational plan. The detail supervisor, who must be a Master Sergeant or higher rank, is the only person with the
authority to adjust the plan. When feasible, adjustments will be in writing, however, in cases of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, adjustments can be made verbally and the verbal adjustment shall later be documented on the master ISP Roadside Safety Check Operational Plan (ISP 4-052).

III.B.10. To enhance deterrence, the District’s Safety Education Officer, or designee, should publicize that ISP will be conducting roadside safety check details during certain time frames (i.e. during the month of January). The specific location of the detail may be given at the discretion of the District Commander.

III.B.11. The plan must not interfere with commuter rush hour traffic.

III.C. Detail requirements

III.C.1. A roadside safety check site will fulfill certain minimum requirements:

   III.C.1.a. Adequate advance warning signs, i.e. orange or yellow, diamond shaped signs with black lettering
   III.C.1.b. Locations will be inspected and selected on the basis of visibility and sufficient roadway illumination and lighting necessary for officer and motorist safety. Portable lighting may be used if permanent lighting is not available.
   III.C.1.c. Select a location that limits the opportunity for vehicles to avoid the RSC and reduce the opportunity for avoiding or escaping the check site
   III.C.1.d. Ample room for police and checked vehicles
   III.C.1.e. Freedom from obvious hazards in the highway
   III.C.1.f. Freedom from open or operational business and residential driveways, alleys, and intersecting streets or highways
   III.C.1.g. Nearby bonding locations
   III.C.1.h. Safety and visibility to oncoming motorists
   III.C.1.i. Secondary screening area
   III.C.1.j. Well drained, all-weather roadway, and parking areas

III.C.2. The detail supervisor, assigned personnel, and equipment will be in the proper place and ready before the first subject vehicle is stopped.

   III.C.2.a. The detail supervisor will conduct a briefing with all officers prior to the start of the detail where a sign-in sheet for all participants will be completed.
   III.C.2.b. All officers on the detail will wear illuminated or reflective vests to increase visibility and enhance officer safety in accordance with ISP Directive EQP-012, “High-Visibility Vests.”
   III.C.2.c. A squad car equipped with a video camera will be safely positioned to record all vehicles entering into the roadside safety check.

      III.C.2.c.1) At the conclusion of the detail, the detail supervisor will collect the video medium used to record the roadside safety check.
      III.C.2.c.2) The video tape(s) will be stored in accordance with ISP Directive EQP-015, “In-Car Video Camera Recording Equipment.”

III.C.3. At the scene of a roadside safety check, traffic will be directed by using appropriate procedures.

   III.C.3.a. Roadside safety checks will only be conducted when staffing reasonably ensures an efficient operation with officer and motorist safety the highest priority.
   III.C.3.b. Uniformed officers and official vehicles will be in sufficient quantity and visibility to show the presence of legal authority.
   III.C.3.c. Activate flashing warning lights on marked patrol vehicles parked near the entrance of the checkpoint.

III.C.4. A detail supervisor will be present on the scene to guide operations. Should it be necessary for the detail supervisor to leave the scene, an acting supervisor will be appointed.
III.C.5. After safety, the most important attribute required of officers at roadside safety checks is courtesy.

III.C.6. Check procedure

III.C.6.a. The checking procedure will be thorough, yet cause minimum delay to motorists.

III.C.6.a.1) A driver’s license appearing valid on its face will be considered as prima facie proof that the driver is in compliance with the Illinois driver licensing law.

III.C.6.a.2) The officer will not check SOS driver’s license files unless the officer has a significant reason or grounds to believe a violation has been or is being committed.

III.C.6.a.3) If the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe a driver is in violation of the law, the driver will be directed to a secondary screening area and appropriate enforcement action taken.

III.C.6.a.4) Any case arising from use of the authority afforded by the statutes will be judged on its own merit. If the officer detects a violation, acquires probable cause to believe an offense has been committed, or observes contraband in plain sight, the officer will take enforcement action.

III.C.6.a.5) The officer will listen for speech difficulties and look for any signs that might indicate intoxication.

III.C.6.a.6) The officer or an assisting officer should check the vehicle for any equipment violations.

III.C.6.a.7) Do not allow traffic to accumulate. Traffic congestion defeats the purpose of the checking operation.

III.C.6.a.8) Properly document any stops with motorists who attempt to avoid RSC.

III.C.6.b. Any officer from another police department assisting the ISP in a roadside safety check must be present for the detail briefing prior to the start of the detail and must abide by this directive.

III.D. Post-detail requirements

III.D.1. For non-hireback details, at the conclusion of the detail, the supervisor in charge will complete an e-Hireback RSC Detail Supervisor Admin form and electronically transmit it to the web page for the District Hireback Coordinator’s review and approval.

III.D.2. If the roadside safety check is funded through the Driving Under the Influence Enforcement (DUIE) grant or another hireback program, the District Hireback Coordinator or detail supervisor must approve the DUIE RSC Detail Supervisor Administrative form and the officer’s DUIE e-Hireback form.

III.D.3. If the roadside safety check is funded through the DUIE grant or another hireback program, a copy of the pre-detail and post-detail press releases, must be sent to the Office of Finance (OOF), Grant Compliance Section within 10 days after the detail is conducted.

III.D.4. A copy of the following ISP Roadside Safety Check Operational Plan (ISP 4-052) will be retained in the District for a period of three years.


Indicates new or revised items.

-End of Directive-