

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order
No.223

Effective Date
11-01-1994

Revised Date
05-01-2001

Subject: Closing of the Interstate Highway System

Reviewed 9/1/16

POLICY

It is the policy of this Department to develop and, if necessary, activate a contingency plan for closing a portion or all of the interstate highway system within its jurisdiction should the need arise.

Unforeseen occurrences such as ice or standing water on the roadway or structural defects may require drastic responses to safeguard lives and prevent property damage or to facilitate the movement of traffic via emergency detours to avoid traffic jams. Accordingly, the following procedure has been established to close the interstate highway system should the need arise.

PROCEDURES

I. Conditions Necessitating Closure

- A. The following procedure shall be utilized only when a portion of the interstate highway system becomes impassable due to environmental conditions (ice, snow, standing water, etc. on the roadway) or structural defect (collapse of bridge or elevated portion). Only the portion absolutely necessary to contain the situation shall be closed.
- B. Temporary closure of the interstate system or any portion thereof due to fires, hazardous materials incidents or major traffic accidents involving a large number of vehicles shall be handled in keeping with procedures established to deal with those specific incidents.
 1. The on-scene commander shall be responsible for coordinating the responses of any other agencies involved (DOTD, BRFD, EMS, DEQ, etc.) until relieved by the designated Haz-Mat Incident Commander. Once relieved of overall command, BRPD personnel shall then be responsible for traffic direction and control.
 2. Any barricades established for traffic control during a fire or chemical spill shall be manned for the length of the event.

II. Command Notifications

- A. Communications shall notify LSP Troop-A and EBRSO of any interstate closure induced by one of the events as outlined in this order.

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- B. If one of the conditions mentioned in paragraph a (above) occurs, the on-duty shift commander shall determine if the condition is likely to last for one (1) hour or more. If so, he shall notify the Commander of the Traffic Office who shall make an inspection of the situation. If he determines closure of the interstate is necessary for an extended period of time he shall then contact a D.O.T.D official to obtain an order for closure.
 - 1. It is only upon the order of a D.O.T.D. official that the interstate system in Baton Rouge may be closed for an extended period of time.
 - 2. In this case the Chief of Police, Duty Commander or Uniform Patrol Bureau Commander, Media Relations Officer, Communications supervisor, EMS shift supervisor and Chief of Fire Communications must be notified.

III. Command Responsibility

- A. Upon a lengthy closure of the interstate, the commander of the Traffic Division shall develop a plan to divert traffic or remove the obstruction (whichever is applicable) and make a determination of the anticipated length of closure.
- B. If the situation warrants, the Commander of the Uniform Patrol Bureau may authorize a recall of officers assigned to the Traffic Office to relieve uniform patrol officers. The Commander of the Traffic Office shall assume control of the deployment of personnel. If necessary, uniform patrol officers may be assigned to assist traffic officers. If the situation warrants, DPW shall be notified and respond with barricades. These barricades shall be placed at entrance ramps completely closing the ramp. These barricades need not be manned, but shall be monitored to insure compliance.
- C. The Commander of the Traffic Office shall assign supervisory personnel to monitor the situation throughout the closure. When travel can be safely resumed, he shall give the order to allow traffic to resume and make the appropriate notifications.