



<b>Series</b> 200 Operations	<b>Effective Date</b> 09/12/2022	<b>Review Date</b> Three Years	<b>Directive Number</b>  <b>204.6</b>
<b>Chapter</b> 204 – Traffic Operations			
<b>Reviewing Office</b> Planning, Research, and Deployment			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Directive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Revised</b> <i>Revisions in italics</i>
<b>References</b>			

**DEFECTIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS**

**204.6 - 1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to provide members with guidelines for correcting any malfunctioning or defective traffic control device and hazardous conditions that come to their attention.

**204.6 - 2 Procedure**

1. Members shall immediately report malfunctions and defects such as:
  - a. Missing, damaged, altered, or malfunctioning traffic control devices;
  - b. Fallen electrical lines;
  - c. Broken glass on the street;
  - d. Defects in pavements or sidewalks; and
  - e. Unprotected excavations or manholes.
2. All members, while on duty, upon observing any street light outages (i.e. street lights or traffic lights) shall make note of its location and notify Communications Operations Zone Dispatchers. Communications Operations Zone Dispatchers will ensure that DTE is notified of the outage(s) by calling (800) 477-4747.
3. Further, members shall immediately report such conditions to the precinct watch commander, who shall be responsible for the notification of the proper agencies, or city departments responsible for repairs. Members observing a hazardous situation shall take appropriate measures to ensure public safety until repairs have been made. Members shall bear in mind that fallen electrical lines are extremely dangerous since their current may be conducted at great distances through pools of water, wet ground, or wire fences. When a condition is dangerous, Department safeguards shall be provided until correction by the proper agency has been completed. If a member is unsure of the appropriate action, the member shall advise the zone dispatcher and request a supervisor.
4. Members apprehending persons engaged in acts of malicious destruction directed toward any traffic control device shall prepare an incident report and forward a single

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copy to the Department of Transportation. The incident report shall specify the nature of the damage.

**204.6 - 3 Railroad Crossings – Ordinance Complaints**

1. Prosecution may result in instances where a railroad crossing is blockaded by a train in excess of five (5) minutes, except in those cases where the train is moving continuously in one (1) direction. An incident report should be prepared and forwarded to Traffic Safety to initiate prosecution. The report should include the following information:
  - a. Name of railroad company;
  - b. Serial number of the engine or caboose;
  - c. Location of crossing;
  - d. Date, exact time, and duration of delay; and
  - e. Name, address, and telephone number of complainant.
  
2. If the complainant is a member, they should issue an ordinance violation with the above information to the supervisor of the railroad yard. In most cases it is not necessary for the complainant to appear in court. If the complainant's presence is required, they will be subpoenaed prior to the court date.

**204.6 - 3.1 Malfunctioning Railroad Crossing Devices**

When a member arrives at a scene involving such malfunctions as crossing gate failures, flashing signals, or warning bells operating for an extended period of time when no train is in sight, the member shall advise the zone dispatcher who will contact the railroad or proper authority to arrange for repairs.

**204.6 - 4 School Crossing**

Members shall notify the appropriate zone dispatcher and Traffic Safety if a school crossing guard is not present during the hours when children are going to and from school. It shall be the responsibility of Traffic Safety, upon being advised of a guard's inability to report for duty, to ensure communications is notified and a ticket is generated so members are dispatched to cover the crossing.

**204.6 - 5 Intersection Traffic Control**

1. A member directing traffic shall be appropriately dressed, wear a traffic safety reflective vest, and select a position with a commanding view that does not interfere with the traffic flow. The member shall assume a military bearing and command the situation with standard traffic control gestures given in clearly defined motions. When necessary, the member shall assist all emergency vehicles by stopping all vehicular and pedestrian traffic and signaling safe passage to the emergency vehicle driver.

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2. The police whistle may be used for traffic control to facilitate compliance with hand signals. One (1) long, loud signal is used to attract the motorists' attention. Two (2) short signals are used to start traffic moving. Short, rapid signaling is used to give warning of unusual or dangerous conditions.