

## NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/24/2013	SUBJECT:  <b>HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS</b>	Number 320.00 (NYSLEAP O-47-6)
RESCINDS: 04/15/2003		Number of pages 2

### I. Policy:

- A. It is the policy of the Niagara Falls Police Department that all sworn members of the Department have a duty and responsibility to the general public to report hazardous road conditions or other potentially dangerous situations as soon as possible.
- B. Traffic hazards are conditions that may jeopardize the safe movement of traffic or cause confusion or inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. Some hazards are temporary in nature and can often be promptly remedied by members on patrol or by notifying the appropriate agency. Examples of temporary traffic hazards are:
  1. Icy roadways caused by temporary weather conditions;
  2. Inoperative traffic signals and stop signs; and
  3. Down tree limbs or power lines across roadways.
- C. Some traffic hazards are of a more lasting or serious nature that cannot be immediately remedied by you or another agency. Examples of more serious traffic hazards are:
  1. Deteriorated road services;
  2. The need for a traffic control device;
  3. An incorrect kind of traffic signal;
  4. The absence of pavement markings; and
  5. Obstructed view at an intersection.
- D. Some hazardous situations may require immediate public notification via radio, television or social media:

1. The Shift Commander shall be authorized to notify local conventional media outlets (radio, television) to make announcements in regards to the incident based on the situation and with input from officers and/or supervisors at the scene.
  2. Notifications to the public may also be made by the NFPD through department authorized social media sites (Facebook, Twitter etc.). The Shift Commander shall contact the Administrative Lieutenant for notifications of this type. The Administrative Lieutenant shall ensure the notification is posted on the authorized site without delay.
- E. Other hazards often encountered are traffic control signs down, missing or damaged; dangerous holes or ruts in the roadways, electrical or communication wires down, any water leaks or breaks in the mains, construction sites that are not properly barricaded or lit, or any other unforeseen, dangerous or hazardous condition.
- F. When the Desk Lieutenant receives the report of one or more of the aforementioned conditions, he/she will ensure that an entry is made into the Computer Aided Dispatch (VCAD) System. A patrol car shall be dispatched and an on-site assessment will be made. If the situation warrants the call out of another City department or utility company, this shall be accomplished and documented into VCAD. In certain cases, at the desk lieutenant's request, a police report shall be submitted by the responding officer. All VCAD entries and police reports shall include the time, date, location, reporting person and what was done.