



# Impaired Driving: Policy

PCPD has a 27 page Standard Operating Procedure that covers Traffic Enforcement, Control, Administration, and Accident Investigation, as well as other policies that address the following areas:

- Impaired Driving violations as a priority enforcement area

## PEACHTREE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

<b>SUBJECT</b> <i>TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, CONTROL, ADMINISTRATION AND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION</i>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> <i>08/08/2014</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>REVISED</b>	<b>POLICY NO.</b> <i>40-2</i>
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Rescinds and consolidates SOPs 40-3-1, 10-61-1, 10-67-1, 40-4-1, 40-5-1, 40-7-1, and 40-23-1

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the administration of all traffic-related activities and to establish the proper methods for taking enforcement action applicable to traffic law violations within the jurisdiction of the City of Peachtree City.

II. POLICY:

Peachtree City Police Department recognizes that traffic administration and enforcement involves a broad range of police activities or operations. These functions entail observation, detection, prevention and appropriate enforcement action. Enforcement not only involves making an arrest or issuing a citation, it also includes a constructive warning program, which may cause motorists and pedestrians to be more cognizant of the law. Traffic law compliance is promoted through the judicious use of written warnings, traffic surveys, speed measurement detection, and preventive patrol techniques. Traffic enforcement can be reactive to observed violations or in response to community concerns. It can also be proactive, to effectively prevent traffic violations from occurring. Enforcement efforts should be coordinated with respect to collision locations, speed zones, school and recreational areas and areas that are subject of community concern. Additionally, time, place, and the type of violations should be taken into account. Overzealous enforcement, without regard for the circumstances surrounding the violation, may cause disrespect for the law and result in poor public relations.

The Peachtree City Police Department recognizes that speeding, impaired driving, and occupant restraint violations have a direct effect on the safety of our roadways, including the frequency and severity of injury of the collisions on these roadways. These violations are priority enforcement areas.



PEACHTREE CITY

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- Deployment of selective enforcement efforts by trained officers to reduce DUIs by targeting times and locations of high violation frequency, and training officers.

2. Driving Under the Influence:

The objective of selective enforcement of DUI violations is to reduce alcohol or drug related traffic offenses by deploying units and personnel who are specially trained and equipped to apprehend alcohol-impaired drivers. Selective enforcement of DUI laws includes:

- Assignment of personnel during times and at locations where collisions are high or where there have been a number of DUI laws violations, or as a general deterrent.
- Selective surveillance techniques on roads where there is a large number of DUI-related collisions.

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- Selective road safety checks for deterrent and enforcement purposes.
- Selective enforcement of DUI laws through concentration on existing laws.
- Continuing training of officers in DUI detection.

- **Mandatory arrest of Impaired Drivers shown on right.**

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- Physical Arrest: Officers will affect the arrest of any person(s) in violation of the following traffic laws:
  - DUI.
  - Hit & Run, Failure to Stop and Render Aid, involving serious injuries or death.



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PCPD has a separate policy with very detailed guidance on DUI arrest actions and the processing of DUI Offenders.

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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>REVISED</b>	<b>POLICY NO.</b>
<i>Driving Under the Influence</i>	<i>12/31/2014</i>		<i>40-5</i>
<i>Rescinds former SOP 40-9-1(2008)</i>			
<p><b>I. PURPOSE:</b></p> <p>The purpose of this directive is to establish proper guidelines for the arrest and processing of persons charged with driving under the influence.</p> <p><b>II. POLICY:</b></p> <p>The Peachtree City Police Department will maintain an effort to reduce traffic related deaths and injuries by effective enforcement of laws pertaining to driving under the influence (DUI). Officers making an arrest of this offense shall follow the guidelines established in this procedure. It is the policy of the Police Department that all DUI laws are strictly enforced and prosecuted.</p> <p><b>III. SCOPE:</b></p> <p>This policy is applicable to all police personnel involved in traffic enforcement operations.</p> <p><b>IV. PROCEDURES:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When conducting contacts with motorists, officers will be constantly aware of indicators that the driver may be under the influence of an intoxicating substance.</li> <li>2. Training on the detection of impaired drivers is a priority of the Peachtree City Police Department. All officers in assignments where traffic contacts are made will complete the <a href="#">National Highway Traffic Safety and Administration (NHTSA) DUI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST)</a> course as soon as practicable in their career. Officers</li> </ol>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. If an officer deve</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. SFSTs completed by officers who have taken the NHTSA training will be conducted in accordance with standards set forth in that curriculum.</li> <li>3. Officers who have been trained in evaluations besides the SFSTs, such as Modified Romberg Balance, Lack of Convergence, or components of the Drug Recognition Expert protocol, may use those examinations during their investigation.</li> <li>4. Safety of the driver during testing will be a priority concern of the officer. Drivers will not be asked to perform tests in unblocked lanes of traffic, near a drop-off / ditch, or other dangerous locations. Testing will also be terminated if it becomes apparent that the driver cannot complete testing without significant risk of being injured from a fall or staggering into a dangerous location.</li> <li>5. At conclusion of field testing, drivers will generally be asked to submit to a <b>Portable Breath Test (PBT)</b> if one is readily available.</li> </ol>		

Although the policy was updated at the end of 2014 to combine the DRE General Order into the DUI SOP, and update verbiage about SFST procedures, there were no material changes in the department's policy.



## Impaired Driving: Policy

- PCPD policy also addresses the use of Drug Recognition Experts

### 6. Use of Drug Recognition Experts (DREs)

A DRE is a police officer specially trained and certified by the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) to conduct systematic examinations of suspected drug-impaired drivers. Such examinations are conducted to determine if (1) the suspected driver is impaired; and if so, (2) whether the impairment is related to a medical condition or drug use; and if drug use is suspected, (3) the drug category or combination of drug categories likely to have caused the impairment.

DREs will be utilized according to the following procedures:

1. A DRE may be utilized for formal drug influence evaluations in the following circumstances:
  - a. When the operator of a motor vehicle has been| detained by an officer and the officer suspects the driver is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs; AND
  - b. The officer has administered field sobriety tests to the suspected driver, and it is the officer's opinion that the driver is impaired and cannot safely operate a motor vehicle; AND
  - c. The officer has placed the impaired driver under arrest for Driving
  - d. Once the DRE arrives to conduct an evaluation, the arresting officer will assist as requested. If the arresting officer is not adequately trained in standardized field sobriety or scribing procedures, the DRE may request another officer to assist with documentation of the evaluation.
  - e. Once the evaluation has been completed, the DRE will advise the arresting officer of the drug category or categories that they believe to be causing the impairment (if any), or that the arrestee should be considered a medical rule-out.
  - f. The DRE will ensure that a copy of the [Drug Influence Evaluation face sheet](#) is placed with the incident report file in central records once complete. The DRE will retain the original face sheet and submit a supplemental report as soon as practicable.
  - g. Unless made impractical due to other factors, a DRE will be called to evaluate all at-fault drivers in fatality collisions.

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014