

UW Whitewater Police



Hazardous Roadway Conditions

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I. Purpose

To give police officers and campus service officers guidelines in removing hazardous materials from the roadway, including roadways used for parking lots.

II. Definitions

Roadway: Any surface that is covered in asphalt or gravel that is designed for vehicle travel or parking use. This includes parking lots as they are designated as state roadways used for parking per Wisconsin State Statute.

Roadside Hazard: Any item on the roadway that could cause damage to a vehicle or has the potential to cause a vehicle to lose control.

III. Policy

It is the policy of the UW-Whitewater Police Department that officers and campus services officers will remove any hazardous items they locate on the roadway. If the items are something that cannot be removed or is a hazard on the roadway that needs replacing, such as a damaged traffic control signal, the proper protocols will be followed to make sure the appropriate staff is notified to make the repairs and correct the issue.

IV. Procedure

- A. Roadway Debris in the Roadway.
 1. On patrol officers often find debris in the roadway such as tree branches, broken glass, or objects placed in the roadway that are a traffic hazard.
 2. When it is possible to remove the debris an officer or campus service officer is expected to move the item off of the roadway using the proper procedure listed below.
 - a. Using proper emergency vehicle lighting and wearing traffic vests for an employee working in the roadway.
 - b. If they are on foot, on a bicycle, or in a vehicle that does not have proper safety equipment, they should request assistance to the scene from an employee who does.
 - c. A call for service will be completed for this call.

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B. Larger Debris in the Roadway

1. Officers and campus service officers on patrol often locate items blocking a roadway such as water across the road, tree branches in the roadway, or other items.
2. Employees should first make sure the scene is as safe as possible by using emergency lights, placing traffic cones, or other means to warn approaching motorists of the roadway blockage.
3. Employees should then contact the agency that maintains the roadway, such as Facilities Planning and Management for University Roadways, City of Whitewater Department of Public Works for City of Whitewater Roadways, or City of Janesville Public Works for City of Janesville Streets.

C. Roadway Design or Environmental Issues.

1. Officers and campus services officers on patrol often notice safety items that others might not notice. Such as faded traffic control signs, vegetation blocking signs, visual line of sight on the roadway, and roadway lighting not adequate in certain areas.
2. When an employee notices these items they should contact their immediate supervisor to make them aware of the issue.
3. The supervisor will then forward the request to the appropriate authority for correction.