

<i>PROCEDURE: Safety of Community Workers During Emergencies and Road Blocks</i>	<i>NUMBER: 1.4</i>
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1. **Car Maintenance**

- a. Be mindful of car maintenance requirements in your area; for example, working taillights, etc.

2. **Road Rules**

- a. Follow all road rules such as speed limits, seatbelts, etc.

3. **Road Blocks**

If you encounter an emergency on the road or road blocks with physical or human barriers (i.e. law enforcement units) be sure to:

- a. Inform your supervisor and your “In-Case-of-Emergency” contact. Ask one of them to remain on the line.
- b. Keep your phone speaker on and leave your phone by your side.

4. **Stop by Law Enforcement**

If a law enforcement officer (i.e. Highway or Border Patrol, sheriff, local police, etc.) stops you, remember to:

- a. Signal your intention to pull over as soon as you see headlights flashing. Do so in a safe and well-lit area and **keep the engine running**, but put your vehicle in “park.”
- b. Once you pull over, call your supervisor or your “In-Case-of-Emergency” contact to let them know what is happening. **Ask your contact to remain on the line. Place your phone in speaker mode and on the passenger seat.** Remain in your vehicle--do not get out of the vehicle unless you are instructed to do so.
- c. Turn on your interior lights and partially roll down the driver’s side vehicle window.
- d. Place your hands on top of the steering wheel so the officer can see them.
- e. Notify any passengers to keep calm and to avoid any sudden movement that the officer may perceive as a threat.
- f. Be prepared for the officer to ask for your license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
- g. Make a mental or written note of the officer’s name and badge number and, if possible, the patrol car number.
- h. Note what uniform or clothing the officer is wearing and ask the officer(s) what agency they are with.

5. **Knowing Your Rights**

- a. When asked, politely and honestly provide your name, date of birth and address. That is all the information that the police need. Do not volunteer any more information.
- b. If the law enforcement officer insists on questioning you, politely ask, **“Am I free to go?”**
- c. Remember that you can exercise your right to remain silent by telling the officer **“I am going to remain silent.”**
- d. If the officer asks about your migratory status, you have the right to remain silent and reply, **“I am going to remain silent”** and ask, **“Am I free to go?”**

- e. If the law enforcement officer asks you about the migratory status of your passengers, you can honestly say, **“I don’t know”** or you can exercise your right to remain silent by replying, **“I am going to remain silent”** and asking, **“Am I free to go?”**
  - f. If the officer asks you to step out of the vehicle, do so slowly. Politely tell the officer, **“I do not consent to a search”** and ask, **“Am I free to go?”**
  - g. If the officer initiates a search of your belongings you can say **“I do not consent to the search”**
  - h. If the officer arrests you, do not resist.
  - i. Officers are authorized by law to conduct a person & vehicle search only after a person is arrested--unless they suspect that you are armed.
- 6. Knowing your Passenger’s Rights**
- a. Passengers have the same rights that you do. They have the right to remain silent by telling the officer, **“I am going to remain silent.”**
  - b. If the officer asks your passengers about their migratory status, **they** have the right to remain silent and reply, **“I am going to remain silent.”**
  - c. If the officer asks them to step out of the vehicle, they need to do it slowly and politely and notify the officer that they are not consenting to a search by saying, **“I do not consent to a search.”**
  - d. If the officer initiates a search of the passengers' belongings, the passengers can say **“we do not consent to the search”**
  - e. If they are arrested, they should not resist.
- 7. If your patients are arrested**
- a. Do not intervene.
  - b. When you are allowed to leave, let your contact know that you are safe and tell them what happened.
  - c. Notify your supervisor of what happened.
  - d. As soon as you can, write out what you remember about the incident.
  - e. Complete an Incident Report as soon as you return to the Health Center. It is important to do this within the first 24 hours after the incident.
  - f. In the event that patients were arrested, strategize with the team and discuss how to notify the patients’ families.
- 8. Be sure to follow other pertinent procedures:**
- a. *Safety of Community Workers.*
  - b. *Safety of Community Workers at Home Visits.*
  - c. *Safety of Community Workers While Transporting Patients.*

Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date \_\_\_\_\_