



Traffic Services Section Michigan State Police Field Update #12

Providing Traffic Related Information and Services to Michigan Law Enforcement

Section Phone (517) 336-6171

www.michigan.gov/msp-traffic

Fax (517) 336-6259

Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor Training

The four-day [Standardized Field Sobriety Testing](#) (SFST) Instructor Course will be held February 6-9, 2006, at the Clarion Hotel in Lansing. The course is free, and meals, materials, and lodging are provided. This course is approved by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA). Candidates must be current SFST practitioners and must submit a brief resume indicating why they are interesting in becoming instructors and citing the dates, location, and instructor providing their original SFST training. Contact Mr. [Robert L. Betzing](#), SFST Coordinator, at (517) 336-6436 for information.

Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices

The [Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MMUTCD) has been recently updated to reflect changes in the [Federal Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (FMUTCD). The new version replaces the 1994 Edition. The MMUTCD can be downloaded at no cost directly from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) website by clicking on the link above or can be ordered through [The Local Technical Assistance Program](#) (LTAP) at Michigan Technological University. The cost for a copy through the LTAP is \$135, and includes a CD in addition to the manual. Questions about the MMUTCD can be directed to Mr. [Mark Bott](#), MDOT at (517) 335-2625 or [Sgt. Lance Cook](#) at (517) 336-6660.

Power Loss at a Signalized Intersection (Dark Signal)

The Traffic Services Section has recently received a number of phone calls regarding the right-of-way at intersections where a traffic signal has lost power. When a signal loses power, the intersection becomes uncontrolled and reverts back to the basic right-of-way requirements found in [MCL 257.649](#)(1) and (2). It does **not** become a four-way stop, as is frequently stated by members of the media.

There are a number of factors that are taken into account when determining the appropriate course of action in response to the loss of power at a signalized intersection. The Michigan Department of Transportation has issued a [memorandum](#) for response to power outages involving traffic signals on state trunkline highways, which accounts for a variety of factors that can influence if, when, and how temporary traffic control devices may be posted. While the memorandum is not binding on county road commissions or municipal road authorities, many have adopted a similar position. Check with your local road authority for their policy prior to the occurrence of an event.

The Michigan Department of State Police has adopted Official Order 49, [Enclosure \(9\)](#), to provide guidance to department members when responding to the loss of power at an intersection. Contact the [Vehicle Code Unit](#) for additional information.

[Alcohol Enforcement Unit](#)
[Grant Administration Unit](#)
[Section Commander](#)
[Speed Measurement Unit](#)

(517) 336-6338
(517) 336-6121
(517) 336-6611
(517) 336-6651

[Crash Reconstruction Unit](#)
[Field Support Unit](#)
[Section Technician](#)
[Vehicle Code Unit](#)

(517) 336-6579
(517) 336-6685
(517) 336-6171
(517) 336-6660