



Walking Events on the Highway – Good practice guide

Guidance/Tips for event organisers

- Event organisers should follow the advice of their traffic management plan to ensure a vehicle is at the rear of participants to prevent an overtaking vehicle colliding with the rear of the procession.
- Recommend that a warning sign is in the back window (not obstructing the driver's view) of the vehicle at the rear of the procession warning that a parade is taking place and to stay behind the vehicle.
- The marshals should stand behind the 'road closed' signs and traffic cones and carry with them a copy of temporary traffic regulation order which enables the affected roads to be closed during the event.
- All signs and cones must be removed at the conclusion of the event, or as soon as possible after the event has passed a particular point.
- Recommend that event organisers communicate with the marshals using walkie talkies, as they enable all the marshals to hear all the communications at the same time.

For walking events on the highway, a marshal should be:

- Readily identifiable using high visibility jackets.
- Given a copy of the traffic management plan and route map and are fully briefed so that they are conversant with the organisers' intentions and directions on how the event will be managed safely.
- Conversant with any contingency plans for the event, and particularly their roles in such plans.
- They should know the event's route and remain in the allocated position for the duration of the event, unless directed to move by an event supervisor. It is important that they remain in the allocated position in order that the person in overall command knows exactly where their staff are if needed in the case of an emergency or redeployment.

Marshal Powers

Powers and protection come from road signage marking the boundary of the road closure e.g. ROAD CLOSED SIGNS.

Power to place the road signage comes from the temporary traffic regulation order that is issued by the local authority.

With a road closure the status of the road changes thus allowing marshals power to control movement within their event, but not outside the road closure.

Road closure in place:

1. Can direct traffic within a road closure.
2. Can ask traffic to stop but member of public does not have to stop.
3. The marshal is directing and not enforcing (explain the reasons to drivers for the hold up and length of time they will be delayed. Thank them for their patience.

Marshal competencies

Marshals must be fit, both physically and temperamentally, to carry out their duties and to assist the public in an emergency.

Marshals must be able to effectively communicate with members of the public.

The adequate training and briefing of marshals is central to effective event safety.

It is the organiser's responsibility to ensure their staff are competent and fully briefed.

List of competencies (not to be treated as the complete list):

1. Approachable
 2. Age 18 plus
 3. Common sense
 4. Clear and concise
 5. Degree of authority
 6. Physically able
 7. An awareness of the road
 8. Knowledge and understanding of the events plans
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