

Safety, proper identification top priorities at barricades

Recently a few employees have become irate or upset at having to stop at the barricades for either a badge check or traffic situations. Some of the commuters appear to believe that they are no longer expected to stop at the barricades at all, but instead only slow minimally as they drive through. ***This is the wrong expectation.***

The Hanford Patrol personnel manning the barricades are required to identify the people entering the site as having valid badges. In order to reduce the slowdowns at rush hour, we have been allowed to only check the badge of the driver of a vehicle entering the site. The driver has the responsibility of ensuring that his or her passengers are in possession of a proper badge. The patrolman staffing that post decides whether or not to allow the vehicle and the passengers access to the site.

As most of you who work in the outer areas know, this is not normally a problem for the vast majority of the site employees.

However, patrolmen routinely see unsafe or illegal behavior as drivers approach the barricades. Some approach the barricades well in excess of the posted speed limits. Other drivers are talking on a cell phone, eating, drinking, displaying the badge and steering the vehicle with knees or elbows. Many drivers are following the vehicle in front too closely.

In an effort to reduce the speed, the Hanford Patrol has requested the support of the Benton County Sheriff's Office traffic units to randomly monitor vehicle speed at the barricades.

Drivers should always be prepared to come to a complete stop at the barricades as they seek authorization to enter the site from the patrolman. Additional patrolmen are on duty at peak traffic times to authorize the entry to the site for the large number of employees during rush hour.

However, because they had to stop and show their badge properly, or allow the patrolman to seek reasonable verification of their identity, some employees chastise, swear at or otherwise abuse the patrolmen.

Periodically, Hanford Patrol conducts 100 percent identification checks at the barricades and other locations inside the barricades. All personnel are required to submit to the identification check whenever it is required. Refusing to comply with a patrolman's direction, or abusive behavior towards any security professional, may result in the immediate confiscation of the employee's badge, denial of site access and referral to management along with a report detailing the behavior. The patrolman who was abused is a part of our decision process on whether or not access is granted again.

Employees with more than 10 years of service at Hanford may recall that in the past, every day, every vehicle was stopped and searched before entry into the limited areas. Those employees may also recall that

Commentary by



Greg McDowell
Chief
Hanford Patrol

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Wye Barricade traffic was frequently backed up and at a standstill for as much as a half-mile during the morning rush hour.

We will continue to try to minimize the delays, but drivers must be prepared to stop. If you can get through on a roll, thank the patrolmen for keeping the flow moving. If you must stop for identification and badge verification, your cooperation will speed the process for you, the patrolman and those folks behind you trying to enter the site.

My thanks to the hundreds of commuters who are pleasant and courteous to the Hanford Patrol personnel. It is appreciated.

If you are convinced that a patrolman has failed to do the job properly, call the Patrol Operations Center at 373-3800 and register your complaint. Hanford Patrol management will contact you. A follow-up inquiry will be conducted.

Do not take your frustrations out on my patrolmen. The patrolmen do not make the rules, but they do their best to enforce them. ♦

Be prepared, be patient when seeking entrance to site

Now that we have reminded you that you should be prepared to stop as you seek authorization to enter the site, you should be aware of situations that could delay your entry. Entry to the site is slowed when the Hanford Patrol personnel on duty at the barricades

- cannot see the badge because you are covering the front with your hand, the badge is flipped over or there is a glare from the windshield or lights
- must compare the photo on the badge with the driver, (hats, helmets, bandanas or new beards make this comparison time-consuming)
- must see the expiration date of subcontractor badges or must request photo identification to validate non-photo temporary badges
- must see the access credentials that accompany Foreign National badges
- is asked to issue a temporary badge
- is asked to report an observed event or concern
- is asked to provide directions.

When you approach the barricades, observe the posted speed limit, do not follow the car ahead too closely, be prepared to validate approved entrance and, most of all, *be patient*.