
	<u>SUBJECT</u> EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION		<u>NUMBER</u> 402/20
	EFFECTIVE DATE: 09-25-09	AMENDS: 07-11-08	RESCINDS:
DISTRIBUTION: Administration, CID, Patrol, Communications, Clerical		REFERENCES: CALEA 41.2.1 / IACLEA 41.2.1 TPCFA 7.15.1	


- .10 Officers of the Department, when operating police vehicles, shall do so in a careful and prudent manner and shall obey all laws of the [Texas Transportation Code](#) and Departmental Policies pertaining to such operation.
- .11 An Officer shall at all times set a proper example for other persons by his operation of a police vehicle.
- .20 [The Texas Transportation Code](#) outlines the authority of Officers operating emergency vehicles and each Officer is responsible for knowing and abiding by this act.
- .21 When an Officer is responding to an emergency call, the Officer is not relieved of his responsibility toward pedestrians and other vehicular traffic. Officers who operate an emergency vehicle without due regard for the safety of others could possibly be involved in an accident resulting in death, injury, criminal prosecution, and/or civil liability.
- .22 While engaged in emergency operations of a police vehicle, Officers must:
 - A. Take into consideration existing conditions, i.e., visibility, road conditions, density and flow of vehicular traffic, commercial versus residential areas, and time of day.
 - B. Exercise sound judgment, carefully consider the facts, and weigh the seriousness of the offense against the possible consequences of jeopardizing the safety of citizens whose protection is their responsibility.
- .30 A Code Classification System will be utilized in assigning priorities to police vehicle operation and calls answered by this Department.
 - A. A Code One designation is for a routine call where there is no indication an emergency exists.

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1. Code – One shall mean a normal driving response, obeying all traffic laws and Departmental driving regulations.


- B. A Code Two emergency call is for one which presents a strong potential for personal injury if assistance does not arrive soon, or whatever manpower is required to contain a potentially dangerous situation.
 1. Code Two police vehicle operation requires the utilization of emergency warning lights (overhead light bar or grill lights), and head lamps.
 - a. The use of emergency warning lights should not be interpreted as allowing the responding Officer to disregard traffic signals and safety precautions.
 2. The siren or horn should be used to warn pedestrian or vehicular traffic where there is congestion or the possibility exists the lighting equipment has not been seen.
 3. Officers responding to Code Two emergency calls are restricted to driving fifteen (15) miles per hour above the posted speed limit if conditions allow.

- C. A Code Three emergency call is one in which the information provided gives rise to a reasonable belief that a human life is clearly in danger and that authorizing an emergency response will in a material way help prevent or curtail that danger.
 1. Officers responding to Code Three emergency calls will be required to activate the emergency warning lights, headlights, and siren at all times the vehicle is in Code Three response condition.
 - a. The use of a siren facilitates the movement of a police vehicle assigned to an emergency call. However, its warning signal does not immobilize pedestrians, force

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vehicles to the side of the road, or erect barriers to stop vehicular traffic at intersections. An audible warning device is effective only when it is properly used and the Officer recognizes its capabilities and limitations.

2. Code Three responses are prohibited during inclement weather which creates hazardous road conditions such as the accumulation of ice, wet pavement, or poor visibility.
 3. Officers responding to Code Three emergency calls are restricted to driving twenty (20) miles per hour above the speed limit if conditions allow.
- D. A Code Four designation is to advise Officers that a situation has been determined to be under control and no emergency exists or that no further assistance is needed.
- E. Officers should use the above listed codes when requesting assistance while out with traffic violators, suspicious persons, civil crimes, etc.
1. For example, a Code Four may be used to advise cover officers that no assistance is needed or a Code One request for assistance may be used to request a cover Officer respond normally and patrol by or remain in the area.
 2. Code Two and Code Three requests for cover would be used by Officers when the situation has deteriorated and the likelihood of officer or citizen injury is possible or has occurred and may continue to occur if help does not arrive quickly.
- .31 Police vehicles that have prisoners, witnesses, suspects, complainants, or other non-police personnel aboard will not drive in excess of Code One limitations nor respond to any situation in which the lives of the passenger may be endangered.

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- .32 Police vehicles are prohibited from escorting private vehicles or transporting sick or injured persons.

- .40 The policy of the Department is to minimize the risk of loss of life, personal injury, and property damage associated with responding to reported crimes or calls for assistance. The necessity to respond other than by routine vehicle operation must be balanced objectively between the risk involved in the response to a call for assistance or in deterring the crime, and the danger in responding in a manner other than routine.