



### EMERGENCY USE OF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES



<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	24 April 2003	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	01 June 2003
<b>RESCINDS:</b>	G03-02		
<b>INDEX CATEGORY:</b>	Field Operations		

#### I. PURPOSE

This directive:

- A. establishes Department policy and procedures relative to the emergency use of Department vehicles.
- B. defines terms as they relate to the emergency use of Department vehicles.
- C. provides text of pertinent sections of the state statute relative to the emergency use of Department vehicles.
- D. establishes training responsibilities relative to the emergency use of Department vehicles.

#### II. POLICY

It is the concern of the Department to ensure the safety of the public as well as Department members at all times. To this effect, Department policy concerning [motor vehicle pursuits](#) and nonpursuit emergency vehicle operations are established in the addenda to this directive.

#### III. DEPARTMENT VEHICLE EMERGENCY OPERATING PROCEDURES

Department members, whenever engaged in emergency vehicle operations, will be aware of the following:

- A. Police vehicles have been afforded special privileges and exemptions when engaging in emergency response calls and [motor vehicle pursuits](#). These special privileges apply only when the vehicle is readily identifiable as an emergency vehicle. All Department members will adhere to the provisions of Chapter [625 ILCS 5/11-205](#), "Public officers and employees to obey Act; Exceptions." These provisions do NOT relieve Department members from the responsibility of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such provisions protect Department members from the consequences of any conscious disregard for safety.
- B. Any Department vehicle operator who is involved in a traffic crash while responding to an emergency situation will be required to justify his or her actions.
- C. Text of Pertinent Statute-Sections Relative to the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code  
[625 ILCS 5/11-205](#). Public officers and employees to obey Act; Exceptions
  - 1. The provisions of this Chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this State or any county, city, town, district or any other political subdivision of the State, except as provided in this Section and subject to such specific exceptions as set forth in this Chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.
  - 2. The driver of an [authorized emergency vehicle](#), when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this Section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.
  - 3. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:
    - a. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this Chapter;

- b. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be required and necessary for safe operation;
- c. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property;
- d. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

#### IV. TRAINING

The Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Education and Training Division, will ensure that all sworn Department members receive training and pass a proficiency exam involving the policy and procedures established under this directive with particular emphasis on [motor vehicle pursuits](#).

Terry G. Hillard  
Superintendent of Police

03-009 DK

#### GLOSSARY TERMS:

1. **Motor Vehicle Pursuit**

- A. An active attempt by a sworn member operating an authorized emergency vehicle to apprehend any driver or operator of a motor vehicle who, having been given a visual and audible signal by the officer directing such driver or operator to bring his or her vehicle to a stop, fails or refuses to obey such direction, increases or maintains his or her speed, extinguishes his or her lights, or otherwise flees or attempts to elude the officer.

**NOTE:** A routine traffic stop or other instance in which an officer activates his or her emergency lights and/or siren and the citizen/vehicle operator complies by coming to a stop in a reasonably short distance will NOT be considered a motor vehicle pursuit.

2. **Authorized Emergency Vehicle**

A marked police vehicle that has in operation emergency-roof lights and siren or an unmarked vehicle that has in operation flashing headlights and siren that are used to respond to an emergency situation or to pursue an actual or suspected law violator.

3. **Non-Hazardous Traffic Offense**

A violation as defined in the Illinois Vehicle Code or the Municipal Code of Chicago involving equipment, licensing, or regulatory violations.

4. **Law Enforcement Personnel**

Any person who by virtue of his or her office is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for offenses, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to specific offenses, regardless of the employing agency.

5. **Emergency Vehicle Operation**

The authorized use of a Department vehicle beyond the normal traffic regulations undertaken consistent with the exemptions provided under 625 ILCS 5/11-205 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

6. **Traffic Offense**

A violation as defined in the Illinois Vehicle Code or Title 9 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

7. **Theft**

Any violation of any subsection of 625 ILCS 5/4, including Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, or 720 ILCS 5/16.

8. **Hazardous Traffic Offense**

A violation as defined in the Illinois Vehicle Code or the Municipal Code of Chicago involving the improper maneuvering or control of the vehicle that may create a hazard to other persons or property and does not meet the criteria for a nonhazardous moving violation as defined in this directive.

9. **Assigned Supervisor**

Any supervisor assigned and acknowledged by the Office of Emergency Management Communications to monitor a vehicle pursuit.

10. **Secondary Pursuit Unit**

Any police vehicle which becomes involved as a backup to the primary pursuit unit.

11. **Pursuit Paralleling**

The deliberate tactic of a vehicle operator to mirror on adjacent streets the direction and speed of vehicles actively involved in an authorized pursuit.

12. **Boxing In**

A deliberate tactic by two or more police vehicles to force a pursued vehicle in a specific direction or to force a pursued vehicle to stop or reduce speed by the maneuvering of police vehicles in front of, behind, or beside a pursued vehicle.

13. **Caravanning**

The following and direct participation in a pursuit by more than two police vehicles.

14. **Forcing Collision**

A deliberate tactic by a police vehicle operator to cause a pursued vehicle to crash into parked vehicles or fixed objects.

15. **Overtaking**

The passing of a pursued vehicle by a police officer operating an authorized emergency vehicle.

16. **Ramming**

The deliberate tactic by one or more police vehicles to forcibly strike, while attempting to stop, a pursued vehicle.

17. **Roadblock**

Any method, restriction, or obstruction used or intended for the purpose of preventing passage of a motor vehicle.

18. **Primary Pursuit Unit**

The first police vehicle immediately behind the vehicle being pursued.

**ADDENDA:**

1. G03-03-01 - Emergency Vehicle Operations – Pursuits
2. G03-03-02 - Emergency Vehicle Operations – Nonpursuits
3. G03-03-03 - Helicopter Support of Motor Vehicle Pursuits