



EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS – NONPURSUITS



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INDEX CATEGORY:	Field Operations		

I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policy, procedures, and responsibilities for the use of nonpursuit emergency vehicle operation by Department members.

II. POLICY

The use of nonpursuit emergency vehicle operation by Department members is limited to the following:

A. The dispatch priority protocol as defined in the Department directive entitled "Radio Communications".

1.	Priority 0	10-1, police or fire	Emergency vehicle operation is justified
2.	Priority 1	Immediate Dispatch	Emergency vehicle operation is justified
3.	Priority 2	Rapid Dispatch	Emergency vehicle operation is discretionary
4.	Priority 3	Routine Dispatch	Emergency vehicle operation is prohibited
5.	Priority 4	Administrative Dispatch	Emergency vehicle operation is prohibited

**NOTE:** When a unit receives an assignment from OEMC, the priority designation of the assignment is indicated on the portable data terminal screen (PDT). A unit that is not issued a PDT or seeks to verify the priority designation of an assignment will obtain clarification from the OEMC dispatcher.

- B. An "emergency situation", that:
  - 1. is encountered on-view, or
  - 2. otherwise comes to the attention of the vehicle operator after the unit receives an assignment from OEMC.

III. DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION PROCEDURES

A. Marked vehicles

When engaged in nonpursuit emergency vehicle operation, the operator of a marked vehicle will:

- 1. activate the emergency-roof lights;
- 2. activate the siren in advance of encountering any traffic obstruction or to alert others of the approach of his or her vehicle;

**NOTE:** When in close proximity to a crime scene, the operator may exercise discretion in the use of lights and siren.

3. adhere to basic traffic-safety practices;
4. operate the vehicle at a speed and in a manner compatible with weather and local conditions to ensure that control of the vehicle is maintained at all times;
5. proceed through intersections or traffic signals only after determining it is reasonable and safe to proceed;
6. yield the right-of-way to all pedestrian traffic;
7. ensure that the emergency-roof lights remain illuminated on limited-access highways until the police vehicle and the overtaken or disabled vehicle are safely positioned off the main portion of the roadway.

B. Unmarked Vehicles

When engaged in nonpursuit emergency vehicle operation, the operator of an unmarked vehicle will:

1. activate the high-beam flashing headlights;
2. comply with the provisions of Items II-A-2 through 7 of this directive.

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