

GENERAL ORDER III

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY DRIVING (Non-Pursuit)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08-14-96

REVIEW DATE: 01-13-12

NOTE: This rule or regulations is for internal use only, and does not enlarge a officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect of a third party claim. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a nonjudicial administrative setting.

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I. Purpose

To establish policy and procedure for emergency-vehicle operation by the West Plains Police Department in other than "fresh pursuit" situations.

II. Definition

"Emergency Driving" means driving pursuant to police calls such as "help the officer", "crime in progress", "injury accident", etc. During emergency driving, the officer is not pursuing another vehicle and thus has greater control over the situation.

III. Policy

It shall be the policy of this Department that officers involved in emergency driving shall drive in a safe and expeditious manner so that they may travel to and arrive at their destination with due regard for public safety.

IV. Response Codes

A. Code 3 -- Crime-In-Progress, Injury Accident, Medical Emergency, an Officer Call for Help or other calls of a serious nature. Lights and siren will be used.

B. Code 1 -- A call for service that is not listed as Code 3. Field units will respond without the use of emergency lights and siren and in compliance with all traffic regulations.

Note: This policy will not obligate an officer to respond Code 3 to any given call.

V. Significant Factors

When considering driving in the Code 3 mode, officers must evaluate their response, keeping in mind the same considerations used in pursuit situations. Officers will regulate their response to any call so as not to unreasonably endanger the public safety or welfare and should drive no faster than necessary to safely arrive at their destination.

VI. Emergency Escorts

A. Emergency escorts of private vehicles with use of the emergency lights and/or siren are not authorized. Officers will not authorize the driver of any private vehicle to exceed the speed limit or to ignore stop signs or signals, or to otherwise violate traffic regulations.

B. Officers will not lead or otherwise escort ambulances on emergency runs. If assistance is necessary, officers may render such assistance by attempting to clear intersections along the route of the emergency vehicle.

C. Officers may escort organized funeral processions in accordance with Missouri Revised Statute Chapter 194 Section 194.503.

AUTHORITY

A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

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Charles Brotherton, Jr., Chief of Police