

GREELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order 550.00

Reviewed: 02/15

550.00 EMERGENCY OPERATION OF POLICE VEHICLES

- Definitions:
 - Full response emergency vehicle: An authorized law enforcement vehicle marked as a police car equipped with a siren and with overhead red and/or blue emergency lights installed on a roof-mounted bar. Vehicles not equipped with the preceding equipment, or vehicles with such equipment that is not serviceable, will not be a full response emergency vehicle. Full response emergency vehicles may engage in all departmentally authorized emergency vehicle operations and responses.
 - Limited response emergency vehicle: Those vehicles specified below are authorized limited emergency use. These vehicles have specified conditions in which emergency operation is authorized by individual directive. These units are not to be utilized to respond to emergency calls for service.
 - Police motorcycles equipped with emergency lights and siren are not full response emergency vehicles. The only emergency operation that police motorcycles may engage in are vehicle pursuits within the restrictions established in GO 551.
 - Unmarked police cars equipped with a dash mounted emergency light and siren are not full response, emergency vehicles. The only emergency operation that unmarked vehicles equipped with emergency warning equipment may actively participate in is the vehicle pursuit with the restrictions established in GO 551.
 - Non-emergency vehicles: Unmarked/marked vehicles not equipped with emergency warning equipment will not engage in emergency vehicle operation.
 - Emergency warning devices: Devices placed in/on each agency emergency vehicle that emit audible or visual signals in order to warn others that law enforcement services are in the process of being delivered.
- Assigning/Determining Response Modes to Calls for Assistance:

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- Only three categories of response are authorized. These three categories are routine “code 1” response, “code 2” and emergency “code 3” response.
- Routine Response – Code 1:
 - Calls requiring a “code 1” response are delineated in General Order 553.00. Officers will respond routinely “code 1” to all calls not designated as an emergency.
- Expedited Response – Code 2:
 - When information provided or known to the officer indicates an expedited response is needed to a priority 1 or 2 call, but does not require a Code 3 response, officers may activate their lights and siren when they arrive at an intersection controlled by a traffic control device. Both, emergency lights **and** siren must be used.
 - During a code 2 response the officer will adhere to traffic regulations, speed limits, only proceed through an intersection controlled by the traffic control device after stopping and ensuring that all traffic is yielding to the officer’s use of emergency warning equipment (lights **and** siren), and it is safe to proceed.
 - Only sworn police officers of the Greeley Police Department will operate police vehicles in a code 2 response.
- Emergency Responses – Code 3:
 - Only sworn members of the department will operate police vehicles during a “code 3” response.
 - In instances where an officer wishes to initiate the emergency vehicular response mode in response to a sudden occurrence or unfolding events unknown to Communications personnel or supervision, or to upgrade a routine response to an emergency response, the responding officer shall inform the supervisor and Dispatch as soon as possible of:
 - The nature of the situation,
 - The location and destination of the officer’s unit, and
 - Receive acknowledgement from the supervisor.
- Emergency Calls:

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- Calls that an officer may respond to in an emergency mode are as follows:
 - Traffic accidents with injuries,
 - Officer needs assistance for personal safety,
 - In-progress calls involving injured persons or the imminent threat to life or serious bodily injury,
 - When directed by a patrol supervisor to respond “code 3”,
 - Vehicle pursuits during which the violator refuses to stop and the continuing use of both emergency lights and siren are necessary to warn others of the hazardous situation. Further policy and procedures pertaining to vehicular pursuits are located in General Order 551.
 - When, in the officer's judgment, because of information known to an officer from prior experience with the location or parties involved, an emergency response is advisable.
 - At the direction of a supervisor.
- Use of emergency warning devices and vehicle operation while in an emergency response:
 - During an emergency response, emergency lights and siren and other emergency signal devices shall be activated at all times while operating the police vehicle contrary to traffic regulations except as noted in the Code 2 response section of this directive.
 - Emergency responses shall be maintained at the essential minimum. The officer shall also terminate his “code 3” response at the earliest possible time.
 - When responding in an emergency, emergency warning devices may be deactivated at a distance from the scene (to be determined by the vehicle operator) so as to not alert suspects to the proximity of the officer.
 - When emergency warning devices are deactivated, the officer shall comply with posted speed limits, obey all traffic control devices and signals and proceed in a manner consistent with normal traffic flow.

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- The officer should remember to get to the location of the event as quickly and safely as possible. An emergency response does not authorize excessive speed.
- The operating speed of the vehicle shall be kept at a level which allows the driver to avoid hazards which may be reasonably anticipated including reduced speeds at intersections until certain the intersection is clear or other drivers are yielding the right of way.
- The responding officer must remain cognizant of the safety of himself and the general public.
- CRS 42-4-108 Public officers to obey provisions – exceptions for emergency vehicles:
 - (1) The provisions of this article applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by [a] city, subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this article with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.
 - (2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in 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 stated in this article. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:
 - (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
 - (c) Exceed the lawful speeds set forth in section 42-4-1101 (2) or exceed the maximum lawful speed limits set forth in section 42-4-1101 (8) so long as said driver does not endanger life or property;
 - (3) The exemptions and conditions provided in paragraphs (b) to (d), in their entirety, of subsection (2) of this section for an authorized emergency vehicle shall continue to apply to section 24-10-106 (1) (a), C.R.S., only when such vehicle is making use of audible or visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213... *(Greeley Police Department policy requires the use of audible AND visual signals to proceed through intersection during a Code 2 and Code 3 response.)*
 - (4) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due

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regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of such driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

- Code 5 – Officer Needs Assistance:
 - Officers may request emergency assistance when they reasonably believe that there is an imminent threat to the safety of officers or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information:
 - The unit number
 - The location
 - The reason for the request and type of emergency
 - The number of units requiredWhere a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting or any assisting officers shall promptly notify Dispatch.
 - Number of Units Participating:
 - A patrol supervisor is responsible to monitor the number of officers responding to incidents and reduce or enhance the response as warranted.
 - Officers or supervisors may make adjustments to the particular personnel assigned by Dispatch to an incident based on the location of responding officers, officer availability or other factors. However, generally only the number of responding units suggested by Dispatch should respond to a call. This allows Dispatch the flexibility to assign other calls for service to available officers.
 - Each responding officer will determine what level of response is needed based on the incident, distance to the incident and any other factor which a reasonable person would consider while maintaining public safety. When making the decision to respond, the responding officer must weigh the inherent risks in a code 3 response versus the known circumstances of the officer requesting help, keeping in mind you can only help if you arrive safely on scene. When circumstances permit, the first officer on the scene of an emergent incident will determine if additional resources are required and which type of response is required. If an officer on-scene of an incident decides there is no additional need for emergency response by assisting officers, the officer will make notification for a response downgrade.
 - If a code 5 call results in a situation that would trigger an administrative review such as a use of force or a traffic accident, the reviewing supervisor will address the code 5 response as part of the administrative review process. If the code 5 call does not result in an administrative review, the shift/section lieutenant will conduct a debrief of the incident with the involved employees, and notify the division commander after that occurs.

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- Discontinuance of emergency responses:
 - Departmental members shall not continue a “code 3” response when conditions escalate to a degree which places the safety of the departmental member or others in extreme jeopardy. Conditions which must be evaluated continuously are:
 - The capabilities of the officer to control the operation of the police vehicle,
 - Vehicle speed in relation to road and weather conditions,
 - The degree of emergency, urgency or threat to others, and/or
 - Officers may discontinue a Code 3 response when in their judgment the situation warrants.
 - In any event, patrol supervisors will evaluate the conditions and circumstances encountered and may terminate a “code 3” response by patrol officers if such a response creates unacceptable hazards.
- Emergency escorts of civilian vehicles:
 - Emergency escorts of private vehicles are not authorized due to the liability and public danger involved. The officer who is contacted to provide an emergency escort should:
 - Summon emergency medical personnel to respond to his location, or
 - Emergency escorts may be provided during national, state or local emergencies to facilitate the emergency movement of medical or other disaster supplies, with supervisory approval.
 - Officers have the authority to transport sick or injured persons who appear to be suffering from a life-endangering injury or illness in an emergency response mode when the immediate transport of the victim will expedite emergency treatment for the patient.
- Supervisory responsibility: Each patrol supervisor has a responsibility to monitor the use of emergency responses by subordinates. When such assignments originate through radio communications, supervisors will

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monitor such assignments to ensure compliance with applicable directives. In any event, supervisors have the authority and responsibility to increase or decrease the classification of response or discontinue the response of a subordinate to a call or other situation.

General Order 550.00 Emergency Operations of Police Vehicles

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Authorized by Jerry Garner, Police Chief

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Signature

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