	ANDOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER	Number: O2101 Page: 1 of 5 Distribution: All
Title: EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION		Section: Organization
Issued: 06/08/2010	Effective: 06/16/2010	Revised: 05/21/2014
Rescinds: All Previous	Amends:	
CALEA References: 41.2.1		
Review: Annual	Authority: Chief Michael A. Keller	

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of this General Order to provide officers with guidelines for responding to emergencies and using emergency warning devices.

II. Policy

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, may be exempt from certain traffic laws when using emergency warning devices required by Kansas law, however, the driver shall not be relieved of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

III. Definitions

A. **Emergency Vehicle:** An authorized law enforcement vehicle, used for emergency response situations, equipped with emergency lights, siren and other emergency warning devices required by K.S.A. 8-1738 and K.S.A. 8-1720.

B. **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.

C. **Emergency Response Mode:** Operation of an emergency vehicle with emergency warning devices activated.

IV. Regulations

A. Unless radio traffic is being held for an emergency or when momentarily using emergency equipment during traffic stops, officers shall notify Communications as soon as possible when operating an emergency vehicle with emergency warning devices activated [B].

B. Officers shall obey all traffic laws when operating emergency vehicles without the use of emergency warning devices [B].

C. Officers driving emergency vehicles with emergency warning devices activated must drive with due regard for the safety of others [C].

D. When officers driving emergency vehicles in emergency response mode and are driving without due regard for the safety of all persons and an accident occurs, disciplinary penalties will be consistent with the degree of negligence [D].

E. Officers operating a emergency vehicle in emergency response mode will operate the emergency vehicle consistent with this General Order [B].

V. Procedures

A. Determining Response Modes to Calls for Assistance

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1. When responding to routine calls officers will operate without emergency equipment and obey all traffic laws.
2. Officers may operate in emergency response mode in the following emergency situations:
   a. An officer is in trouble;
   b. A violent felony is in progress (i.e. murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault);
   c. A call of an injury accident;
      i. Only the closest officer is authorized to respond in emergency mode.
      ii. Once an officer or another emergency vehicle has arrived on scene, emergency mode response is no longer authorized.
   d. A medical emergency where a person is not breathing (i.e. code blue, choking, etc.).
      i. Only the closest officer is authorized to respond in emergency mode.
      ii. Once an officer or another emergency vehicle has arrived on scene, emergency mode response is no longer authorized.
   e. Pursuit of a violator where the momentary use of either/or emergency lights and siren are necessary to alert other traffic, and/or to command the operator in violation to stop.
   f. Pursuit of a violator in accordance with General Order O2103 Vehicular Pursuits.
   g. Situations authorized by a supervisor where the protection or preservation of life is a consideration.
3. Supervisors or ranking officers are responsible for monitoring response modes and shall have the authority to upgrade or downgrade the response mode.
4. Officers will notify Communications when operating emergency vehicle and responding to a call with emergency warning devices activated.

B. Use of Emergency Warning Devices While in Emergency Response Mode

1. During an emergency response, officers must make use of a siren meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1738 and emergency lights meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1720.
2. During an emergency response, four way flashers should not be used when the emergency vehicle is in motion because they may interfere with brake lights and turn signals.

3. The spotlight is primarily utilized to facilitate building and stationary vehicle checks and shall not be directed at the windshield or vision of oncoming traffic.
4. When responding in an emergency response mode, emergency warning devices may be deactivated at a distance from the scene (to be determined by the vehicle operator) so as to not alert subjects to law enforcement proximity.
5. When emergency warning devices are deactivated, the operator of the emergency vehicle shall comply with posted speed limits, obey all traffic control devices and signals, and proceed in a manner consistent with normal traffic flow.

C. Permitted Activities When Operating in Emergency Mode

1. In accordance with K.S.A. 8-1506, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle who is operating with emergency warning devices activated may:
   a. Park or stand irrespective of the provision of the traffic code;
   b. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation, accounting for traffic in all directions and ensuring the driver can proceed safely;
   c. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as such driver does not endanger life or property. Officers are strongly encouraged to use the Emergency Response Speed Matrix as a guideline for reasonable speed while in emergency response mode and continue to evaluate their speed throughout the emergency response;
   d. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions; and
   e. Proceed through toll booths on roads or bridges without stopping for payment of tolls, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation and the picking up and returning of toll cards.

D. Use of Emergency Warning Devices While Conducting Vehicle Stops

1. Visible warning devices shall be used, at a minimum, to make adequate notice of intent to stop a motor vehicle and to provide a safe environment for the vehicle operator, officer and public.
2. Visible and audible warning devices shall be used when stopping a motor vehicle when it is necessary for the officer to make an illegal turn, break into traffic, and pursue violators more than a short distance, or otherwise warn others of movements.

E. Discretionary Use of Emergency Warning Devices

1. In other than emergency situations, when expediency is required to effectively eliminate a potential hazard to the public or fellow officers, officers may activate emergency warning devices. Examples of permissible uses of

emergency warning devices during non-emergency response situations include, but are not limited to:

a. Using emergency lights as beacons to protect disabled motorists, or
b. Using emergency lights when it is necessary to use agency vehicles as protective beacons.

2. Operators of emergency vehicles shall deactivate emergency warning devices as soon as possible.

F. Limitations

1. The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.
2. Emergency escorts of a motor vehicle result in minimal time saved and create an unusually high level of danger to life and property. Therefore, emergency escorts are prohibited. Should a citizen request a medical emergency escort, the officer involved shall summon an ambulance for treatment or transport of the injured or ill person.
3. In an extreme medical emergency, it may be necessary for an officer to transport the injured or ill person to a treatment facility in a police vehicle. Such transports shall be made only upon the approval of a supervisor.

(Emergency Response Speed Matrix Attached)

Andover Police Department
Emergency Response Speed Matrix

Risk Factors Present	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
	Marked police vehicle Straight roads Few intersections Few or no pedestrians Little to no traffic Good weather Officer calm and in control Lack of special circumstances (i.e. school zones, hospitals, etc	Unmarked police vehicle Some intersecting streets Light pedestrian traffic Moderate traffic, little congestion Officer calm and in control	Frequent intersecting streets Poor weather, slippery streets, low visibility Blind curves, or intersections, narrow roads Heavy, congested traffic Special circumstances (school zones, hospitals, etc.) Officer excited, not in full control of emotions.
Reasonable Speeds	No more than twice the posted speed limit	No more than 25 mph over the posted speed limit	Less than 20 mph over the speed limit

The Emergency Response Speed Matrix is to be used only as a guideline for reasonable speed during emergency response.