



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OF A VEHICLE
GENERAL ORDER #13.01

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Pages: 6

Persons Affected: All SUDPS personnel

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IACLEA Standard: 9.1.5

Revision History

Replaces SUDPS General Order #13.01 (08/04/2006) and reflects SCCSO General Order #13.01 (07/07/2010)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set forth policies regarding emergency responses and the pursuit of confirmed or suspected criminals.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Stanford University Department of Public Safety that all calls for service shall be handled as expeditiously as possible, and that responses to a call for service shall be accomplished in a safe, professional manner at the direction of the responding officer, a supervisor, or Communications. In order to assure community safety as well as the safety of our employees, all Public Safety personnel will operate department vehicles in accordance with the law and this order.



DEFINITIONS

<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>Emergency Vehicle</i>	For the purposes of this section, an authorized emergency vehicle is any police vehicle that is equipped with a red light and siren and is being operated by a member of SUDPS in the performance of his or her duties.
<i>Unmarked Vehicle</i>	Unmarked vehicles are primarily used for investigatory, administrative, and supervisory purposes. Therefore, their use as emergency vehicles should be avoided unless exigent circumstances are present. This order does not prevent the use of unmarked vehicles to augment the patrol function.
<i>Code One Response</i>	Respond at your convenience; red lamp and siren are prohibited.
<i>Code Two Response</i>	Urgent response needed; red lamp and siren are prohibited.
<i>Code Three Response</i>	Emergency response needed, red lamp and siren required.

PROCEDURE

A. CODE(S) OF REPOSE

1. “Code one” responses shall be used when the assignment does not involve an emergency or other urgency. All code one responses disallow the use of red lamp and/or siren and require adherence to all traffic safety laws. If the response will be delayed, the employee will advise *Palo Alto Communications* of the delay. Examples include:
 - a. Notifications
 - b. Coordinating with other employees.



2. “Code two” responses shall be used when the assignment does not involve an emergency, and the employee must respond immediately.
 - a. All “code two” responses disallow the use of red lamps and/or siren and require adherence to all traffic safety laws. At no time shall the deputy use any emergency equipment or flashing lights to aid in a “code two” response.
 - b. Code two shall be the standard response to all calls unless directed otherwise.
3. “Code three” responses, *for SUDPS deputies only*, are emergency responses that supersede traffic safety laws. All due regard for both street/highway traffic and public safety must be exercised by deputies engaged in “code three” driving. “Code three” response is permissible under Vehicle Code §21055 when:
 - a. The vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call, responding to a fire, or otherwise engaged in emergency operations.
 - b. The vehicle is being used in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when the driver/deputy sounds a siren as may be deemed necessary and the vehicle displays a lighter red lamp that is visible to the front profile as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

B. CODE THREE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

1. “Code three” shall be enacted *only by deputies* in cases of emergency, as outlined in **section A.3** above.
2. The officer initiating a “Code Three” response shall first carefully evaluate the necessity for such action on the basis of available information as to the urgency of the situation and any alternative measures that may be employed, and to acknowledge responsibility for such action(s) taken.
3. *SUDPS personnel* shall not initiate “code three” response and pre-response unless such a course of action is fully justified as proper and necessary, according to the urgency and gravity of the situation.
4. In all instances wherein deputies in the field elect to initiate a “code three” response, or engage/participate in a “code three” pursuit, they shall be responsible for their decisions and the conditions of this order at all times.
5. *Palo Alto Communications* shall be advised whenever personnel elect to operate department vehicles in a “code three” manner, except when:



- a. Routine traffic enforcement or field interrogation stops involving the use of red lamp/siren would not ordinarily require notification of the *dispatcher*.
 - b. If a routine traffic enforcement or field interrogation stop develops into a high-speed pursuit, wherein it becomes apparent that an individual or individuals in the pursued vehicle are trying to evade apprehension, the above notification to *Palo Alto Communications* will apply.
 - c. When engaged in an emergency response, a pursuit becomes, in itself, an imminent hazard to life or property, and every effort shall be made to minimize that hazard, as per officer discretion.
6. Upon receipt of a “code three” operation initiated by a deputy in the field, the radio dispatcher shall notify the *SUDPS Patrol Sergeant* regarding the activity and the reason(s) preceding it.
 7. *The Patrol Sergeant shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the need for a code three response of the primary and any secondary units travelling to an emergency call for service.*

C. VEHICLE PURSUIT GUIDELINES

1. The Department and inter-agency pursuit guidelines are adopted as *Stanford University Department of Public Safety Pursuit Procedures* (see **General Order 13.02**).

D. “CODE 20” OR “30” -- OFFICER REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

1. The following procedure shall be adhered to in responding to all “code 20” and “code 30” calls:
 - a. “Code 20” (non-code three response)
 1. The units assigned will respond immediately to the scene of the call, and coordinate (if necessary) with other officer(s) at the scene.
 2. Red lamps and/or siren are not in effect for “code 20” assistance calls.
 3. Non-emergency procedure is in effect, and observing all normal traffic



regulations shall apply.

- b. "Code 30" (code three response)
 1. Red lamps and/or siren are authorized for all "code 30" assistance calls.
 2. Immediate response is mandatory for all "code 30" assistance calls.
 3. When no further assistance is necessary on "code 20/30" calls, the ranking officer at the scene will immediately notify *Palo Alto Communications* to cancel all other responding units.
 4. No unit shall respond "code three" to a "code 30" unless that unit is assigned to the assisting call. Other units will obtain communications prior to proceeding "code three."
 5. When clearance as above is obtained, the unit shall attempt to advise Palo Alto Communications of route of travel, allowing for increasing volume of radio traffic. This will allow subsequent units to be advised.

E. "CODE THREE" AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE (AEV) ESCORTS

1. The deputy (*emergency vehicle escorts may only be performed by sworn personnel*) is prohibited from utilizing sirens or driving at illegal speed when serving as an escort of any vehicle, except:
 - a. When furnished for the preservation of life.
 - b. When expediting movements of supplies and personnel for any federal, state or local governmental agency during:
 1. A national emergency.
 2. A state of war emergency.
 3. State of emergency at any level.
2. Ambulances/Paramedics:
 - a. The ambulance is being escorted through Santa Clara County, and the request for escort is made from an outside agency.



- b. The ambulance driver is unfamiliar with the route and destination.
- c. Regarding the above, it shall be department policy to attempt to ride in the ambulance rather than precede it by a departmental (AEV), to avoid a scenario of more than one emergency vehicle increasing the odds of a traffic accident.

F. ROADBLOCKS/OTHER RELATED STRATEGIES

1. The practice of establishing roadblocks is extremely hazardous and should be undertaken only as a last resort-option. Only in cases where the violator constitutes an immediate and major threat to the safety of others and only when other efforts have failed should roadways be obstructed. See **General Order 13.02(G)** for complete guidance and regulations.

G. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT (IACLEA 9.1.5)

All vehicles that will, in the course and scope of regular assignments, be used for an emergency “code three” or “code 30” response, shall be maintained with the following minimum equipment:

1. *A forward-facing red lamp*
2. *A siren*