

EAST RANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Response to Calls for Service

POLICY
201

REV 03/10/2025

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The state of Minnesota finds that emergency vehicle operations are an integral part of law enforcement's commitment to public safety. This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to all emergency and nonemergency situations (Minn. Stat. 626.8458 Subd. 1).

II. RESPONSE TO CALLS

A. Response to Emergency Calls

1. Officers responding to an emergency call shall proceed immediately as appropriate.
2. Officers responding to an emergency call shall sound the siren or display at least one lighted red light to the front of the vehicle. Whenever practicable, during an emergency call response the officer should continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and sound the siren (Minn. Stat. 169.03 et seq.).
3. Responding with a red light, emergency lighting and/or siren does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle or a law enforcement vehicle of the duty or drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and does not protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others. The use of any other warning equipment without emergency light and siren does not provide an exemption under Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. 169.17).
4. Officers should only respond with a red light, emergency lights and/ or siren when so dispatched or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is appropriate. Officers not responding with a red light, emergency lights and/or siren shall observe all traffic laws.

B. Response to Non-Emergency Calls

1. Normal responses to calls will include all appropriate lighting as required by law.
2. Under tactical considerations, when investigating criminal or suspected criminal violations, or as otherwise appropriate and reasonable, an officer may be temporarily exempt from regular, non-emergency lighting standards for vehicles and watercraft (Minn. Stat. 169.541).
3. However, absent extreme circumstances an employee may not operate a vehicle without regular, non-emergency lighting, as required by law, on:
 - (a) An interstate highway or freeway.
 - (b) At speeds greater than what is reasonably safe under the conditions.

III. REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- A.** Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel 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. Where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall promptly notify 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center.
- B.** If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information:
 - 1. The unit number.
 - 2. The location.
 - 3. The reason for the request and the type of emergency.
 - 4. The number of units required.

IV. NUMBER OF UNITS PARTICIPATING

Normally, only those units reasonably necessary should respond to an emergency as an emergency call response. The on-duty officer should monitor all emergency responses and reduce or enhance the response and warranted.

V. INITIATING EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE

If an officer believes an emergency call response to any call is appropriate, the officer shall immediately notify 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center. Emergency responses of more than one unit should include, if circumstances reasonably permit, coordination of the response of the second responding unit by 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center to avoid unanticipated intersecting of response routes.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICER(S)

- A.** Officers shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. During a response to an emergency call, officers may (Minn. Stat. 169.03):
 - 1. Proceed cautiously past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
 - 2. Exceed any speed limits, providing this does not endanger life or property.
 - 3. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions as authorized by law.
 - 4. Disregard regulations governing parking or standing when using a warning lamp.
- B.** The decision to continue an emergency call response is at the discretion of the officer. If, a response without unreasonable risk, the officer may elect to respond to the call without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. An officer shall also discontinue an emergency call response when directed by a supervisor or as otherwise appropriate.
- C.** Upon determining that an emergency call response is appropriate, an officer shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

- D. When emergency vehicles are on the scene of an emergency and pose any hazard, or when the vehicle operators seek exemption to park, stop or stand contrary to any law or ordinance pursuant to Minn. Stat. 1669.541, adequate warning lights shall be operated whenever practicable.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. A dispatcher shall ensure acknowledgment and response of assisting units when officer requests emergency assistance or when the available information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death and an immediate law enforcement response is needed. The dispatcher shall:
 - 1. Attempt to assign the closest available unit to the location requiring assistance.
 - 2. Confirm the location from which the unit is responding.
 - 3. Notify and coordinated outside emergency services (e.g., fire and ambulance).
 - 4. Continue to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response, and monitor the situation until it is stabilized or terminated.
 - 5. Control all radio communications during the emergency and coordinate assistance.

VIII. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The officer shall verify the following:
 - 1. No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response.
 - 2. Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practicable.
- B. The Officer shall, whenever practicable, monitor the response until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing units into or out of the response if necessary. If, in the officer's judgment, the circumstances require additional units to be assigned an emergency response, the officer may do so.
- C. It is the officer's responsibility to terminate an emergency response that, in his/her judgment, is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

IX. FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the officer must terminate the emergency call response and respond accordingly. The officer shall notify the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response. The initial unit will continue to respond, but not in emergency response mode. The officer with defective emergency equipment will switch into a spare squad as soon as practical.

X. TRAINING

Employees authorized to engage in emergency driving shall receive a minimum of eight hours of classroom and skill-based training, including instruction on defensive driving and review of appropriate policies, as designated by the Chief of Police or at least every five years (Minn. Stat. 626.8458 Subd. 5).

XI. REFERENCE AND REVISIONS

a. REFERENCE

- i. Minn. Stat. 626.8458 Subd. 1

b. REVISIONS

- i. 04/19/2016 – Initial Policy
- ii. 03/10/2025 – ERPSB Approval Date