



LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER: 1610
TOPIC: RESPONSE CODES
ISSUED BY: MICHON MORROW, CHIEF OF POLICE
DATE: 1-1-2024
SUPERSEDES: G.O. 1610, 2017
REFERENCE:

I. POLICY

Determination of the manner of response to an emergency call for service shall be made by the officer assigned within guidelines set forth in this General Order. In all cases, officers are expected to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. Officers shall never drive in a reckless manner, and shall obey traffic signals, control devices, and other rules of the road, unless a clear need exists to expedite the response to an incident.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Response Codes (41.2.1, 61.3.3)

1. Code 1: Non-emergency response. Officers will respond without unnecessary delay. Emergency signaling equipment will not be used, except officers may activate emergency equipment after coming to a full stop at a red traffic signal and proceed only after the way is clear if the incident requires an expedited response but is less than an emergency.
2. Code 3: Emergency response. Officers will respond immediately, using emergency lights and siren continuously. Officers shall come to a full stop at all stop signs and red traffic signals and proceed only after the way is clear.
3. When responding Code 3, officers may discontinue the use of a siren at the point where it might reasonably be audible at the scene of the incident, but only if the incident is of the nature that the sound of the siren would be likely to increase the hazard or risk at the scene. In such situations, emergency lights may be turned off at the point where they might reasonably be visible at the scene of the event.

B. Response Code Selection

1. In selecting a response code, officers shall weigh the following information:
 - a. The nature of the call and information received from the dispatcher;
 - b. The risk created by the emergency response. Officers shall not respond in a code 3 condition when the response creates a risk greater than the emergency at the scene of the incident;
 - c. The prevailing conditions, such as weather, lighting, roadway condition, visibility and traffic;
 - d. The reaction that the approach of a vehicle with emergency lights and siren might cause at the scene of the incident.
 - e. The need for the immediate presence of an officer at the scene;
 - f. Whether other emergency service providers are at, or responding to, the scene.
2. Officers shall respond to medical emergencies and traffic crashes in a Code 1 condition whenever fire or medical units are already en route. Officers may respond Code 3 with supervisor approval.
3. Officers will notify the dispatcher as soon as practicable when responding in a Code 3 condition.
4. Any supervisor may designate a code other than the one selected by the responding officer.
5. Unmarked police vehicles are not authorized to respond Code 3 except in cases of extreme urgency.

C. Emergency Escorts

1. Officers should consider the nature of the emergency, the danger and hazards involved, and the emotional condition of the driver of the vehicle to be escorted before deciding to escort.
2. Escorts should normally be Code 1. Code 3 escorts should be used only in life-threatening emergencies for the purpose of preserving life.