



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



521.02 CODE 3 DRIVING 05-22-17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish emergency response codes and procedures for emergency driving.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to respond to emergency calls as quickly and safely as circumstances allow, while concurrently protecting the safety of the officer and the public.

PROCEDURE

A. EMERGENCY RESPONSE CODES DEFINED

1. CODE 900 – A dire emergency. A critical situation involving life or death circumstances to an officer (e.g., officer being fired upon or officer down).
2. CODE 3 – A radio code designating an emergency that shall be answered immediately.
 - a. Pursuit – See G.O. 521.01.
 - b. Emergency Response (See Section C.3 below) – While responding, red lights shall be used and the siren shall be used as necessary in accordance with 21055 CVC. NOTE: This provision does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor does it protect the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the provision.
3. COVER – An officer's request for immediate assistance. A Code 3 response shall be assumed unless otherwise noted.
4. BACKUP – An urgent call that shall be answered without delay. Red lights and siren shall not be used and all traffic laws shall be observed.

B. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

1. The driver of an emergency vehicle, per Section 21056 CVC, is not relieved from the responsibility of
 - a. Driving with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.
 - b. Recognizing the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges granted under Section 21055 CVC.
2. Officers shall record all Code 3 driving on the vehicle's ICC system in accordance with General Order 525.03.

C. CODE 3 DRIVING AUTHORIZED

1. Only sworn police officers are authorized to drive Code 3.
2. Civilian personnel (including Community Service Officers) who are driving a police vehicle are not authorized to drive Code 3.
3. A call may justify a Code 3 response if one of the following elements is present:
 - a. A violent crime in progress.
 - b. The preservation of life.
 - c. The prevention of a crime of violence.
 - d. Assistance to conduct a felony stop.
 - e. A serious public hazard.
 - f. A public safety unit requests Code 3 cover or advises of other dire emergency.



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4. If a Code 3 response is justified, the dispatcher may dispatch the minimum number of units required in the initial response Code 3. Any additional units shall be dispatched as back-up.
 - a. Officers receiving a dispatched Code 3 assignment may elect not to respond Code 3 on the basis of field information. Officers shall inform the dispatcher of the code change and reason at the earliest possible opportunity.
 - b. The final decision for responding Code 3 shall be made by the officer receiving the call. When more than one unit is assigned Code 3 in the general location, Communications shall broadcast that units are responding Code 3 in the area.
 - c. Upon broadcast of a Code 4 by units on the scene or a supervisor, units shall immediately discontinue the Code 3 response. Officers shall not deactivate emergency equipment (red lights and/or siren) until they have resumed compliance with the rules of the road.