



**CITY OF AKRON, OHIO**  
**POLICE DIVISION**  
**KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE**

<b>NUMBER</b> P-2020-055	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> February 25, 2020	<b>RESCINDS</b> P-2011-055 Issued 10-31-11
<b>SUBJECT</b> Emergency Vehicle Operations		<b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b> Chief Kenneth R. Ball II

## I. POLICY

Officers are to respond to an emergency call with due regard for the safety of all persons. It is important to respond quickly and efficiently; however, no assignment shall be of such importance, and no task shall be expedited with such emphasis, that the principles of safety become secondary. All emergency vehicle operation shall be conducted in strict accordance with existing statutes and ordinances.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Emergency call – A call to duty including, but not limited to, communications from citizens, police dispatchers, and personal observations of **inherently dangerous** situations that demand an immediate response.
- B. Emergency vehicle<sup>i</sup> – For purposes of this procedure, an emergency vehicle is a clearly marked Akron Police vehicle with overhead lights and sirens designed to signal and warn other drivers and pedestrians on the roadway when activated.
- C. Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVO) – Any time police personnel are responding to an emergency call in a police vehicle with lights and siren activated.

## III. PROCEDURE

- A. EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS (EVO) - Police personnel shall always operate vehicles with due regard for their safety and the safety of other drivers, passengers and pedestrians.
  - 1. Officers are to respond to an emergency call immediately, using overhead lights and siren. The use of any other warning equipment without emergency lights and siren does not provide any exemption from Ohio motor laws.
  - 2. Officers responding to an emergency call shall drive at a speed and in a manner that is reasonable considering the following factors:
    - a. Adverse traffic, weather, and/or roadway conditions.

- b. Type and condition of police vehicle.
  - c. Proximity to and/or the proximity of other units to the emergency call.
  - d. The seriousness of the emergency call.
3. Emergency calls include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Officer in need of immediate assistance.
    - b. Crimes in progress that the officer has reason to believe could or has resulted in death or serious bodily injury.
    - c. Accidents, fires, injuries, or any event where human life may be in jeopardy.
    - d. Pursuit incidents.
  4. Examples of calls that are NOT considered emergency calls include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Alarms of uninhabited buildings.
    - b. Property crimes that pose no threat to persons.
    - c. When officers are on scene of an emergency call and have notified the dispatcher that the situation is already under control.
  5. If a passenger is onboard a police vehicle, and unless exigent circumstances dictate, EVO is not authorized except when the passenger is an authorized Civilian Observer as established in the Civilian Observer Procedure.
  6. While the use of warning lights, without a siren, may be tactically efficient when responding to certain emergency calls, the practice is extremely dangerous, and requires the maximum care and alertness on the part of the operator of a police vehicle. Officers using only warning lights must yield the right of way to all traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian. The decision to utilize warning lights, without a siren, rests with the individual officer.
  7. Officers shall follow the Vehicle Pursuit Procedure if a driver attempts to flee for any reason.
  8. If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the officer must terminate EVO. The officer shall notify Safety Communications of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency call.

## B. RADIO TRAFFIC FOR EMERGENCY CALLS

1. If necessary, officers may request that the channel be held. The dispatcher will announce that all nonemergency traffic is restricted.

2. When an officer initiates a Signal 5, the dispatcher will restrict all nonemergency traffic and request the nature of the Signal 5.
3. During a Signal 21 the dispatcher will announce the unit and location and repeat the announcement once. All radio traffic is limited to the Signal 21 until the channel is cleared.
4. Officers on scene of an emergency call, where radio traffic is being restricted, shall notify the dispatcher when the situation is under control and the channel can be released for regular radio traffic.

By Order Of,



Kenneth R. Ball II  
Chief of Police

Date FEB 28, 2020