

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 16-1
Effective: 01-01-09
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EMERGENCY & PURSUIT DRIVING

PURPOSE: To establish Department procedures regarding the emergency and pursuit driving of departmental vehicles.

POLICY: It is the Department policy for employees to operate Department vehicles in a safe and defensive manner while observing all laws concerning motor vehicle operation. During an emergency or pursuit driving situation officers will operate their vehicles with extreme caution and in compliance with A.C.A. §27-37-202. At all times, departmental vehicles will be operated with due regard for the safety of lives and property. In all instances, the safety of persons using the traffic ways is the primary consideration in vehicle operation.

DEFINITIONS:

- I. **EMERGENCY:** Circumstances or results that call for immediate action to protect lives or the intervention of a felony in progress.
- II. **EMERGENCY DRIVING:** The operation of an emergency vehicle with the use of emergency lights and siren in response to an emergency.
- III. **EMERGENCY VEHICLE:** A marked or unmarked Police Department vehicle equipped with blue lights and siren, as described in A.C.A. §27-37-202 and A.C.A. §27-36-303.
- IV. **PURSUIT DRIVING:** Motor vehicle pursuit is an active attempt by a Law Enforcement Officer operating a emergency vehicle utilizing simultaneously all emergency equipment to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle, when the driver of a fleeing vehicle is aware of that attempt and is resisting apprehension by maintaining or increasing his speed, disobeying traffic laws, ignoring the police, or attempting to elude an officer.

PROCEDURES:

- I. **LEVELS OF RESPONSE (7.17)**
 - A. **Code 1: Routine Assignment-** A call for service where no emergency exists, nor is there a potential of an emergency situation to arise. Officers responding Code 1 shall respond complying with all traffic regulations and shall not use emergency equipment.
 - B. **Code 2: Urgent-** A call for service where an emergency has occurred but is currently over, or is escalating and a timely response is required. Officers responding Code 2 shall respond to the location without delay, by the most direct means, complying with traffic regulations. Officers will use discretion when choosing to use a Code 2 response as to use of emergency equipment.
 - C. **Code 3: EMERGENCY-** A call for service where a crime is in progress or an emergency currently exists which requires an immediate response. Officers responding Code 3 shall respond expeditiously to the location of the emergency, by the most direct means, using all emergency equipment with a paramount consideration for the safety of the public and the assigned officers. Officers should remain alert to traffic and pedestrians using common sense when responding to calls that require speeds that exceed the posted limits. In no event shall officers operate the vehicle in a reckless manner.