

	Greenville, SC Police Department <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>		
	<b>Subject</b> Emergency Vehicle Operations	<b>Number</b> 211A9	<b>Type</b> Operational
<b>Effective Date</b> 1/14/2025	<b>Amends/ Rescinds</b> 211A8	<b>Pages</b> 1 of 8	<b>Re-evaluation</b> Annual-April
<b>References</b> CALEA 41 2 1; 81 2 4			<b>Notes</b> Section 4 added wording about officer self-initiated response to CFS Priority 3 Call.

## 1.0 POLICY

The policy of the Greenville Police Department is to protect lives, property, and to maintain the safety of its employees and members of the public. Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVO) is a critical aspect of police operations. The Greenville Police Department strives to ensure these operations are carried out in a manner intended to minimize the risk to the public while achieving the ultimate objective of ensuring public safety and maintaining order.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

**Authorized Emergency Vehicle:** A marked or unmarked police vehicle that is equipped with an audible siren and blue lights meeting the requirements set forth in Title 56 of South Carolina Code of Law.

**Auxiliary Equipment:** Headlights (low and high beams), spotlight, hazard flashers, public address system, take down/alley lights, and vehicle horn.

### **Emergency equipment:**

**Siren:** An audible signal meeting the requirements of South Carolina Code 56-5-4970.

**Blue lights:** A visual signal meeting the requirements of South Carolina Code 56-5 4700.

**Un-Marked Emergency Vehicle:** A vehicle that does not have all of the markings associated with a patrol vehicle but still meets all of the requirements of South Carolina Code 56-5-4970 (Siren) and 4700 (blue lights).

**Use of Force:** Force means the application of any physical control technique by an officer in performance of official duties.

- **Less-lethal Force:** Use of physical control techniques or of less-lethal weapons in a manner reasonably expected to minimize serious physical injury and/or death. The department trains and issues Oleoresin Capsicum spray, CEWs, KEWs, Pursuit Intervention and Termination Tactics, and the baton as less-lethal force weapons to its officers.
- **Lethal Force:** (also referred to as “deadly force”) Action(s) which would reasonably be expected to cause serious physical injury and/or death. Discharging a firearm is always considered a use of lethal force. Any action, either armed or unarmed, which could reasonably be considered to cause serious physical injury and/or death is considered a use of lethal force.

**Violator:** The broad definition includes motorists who have committed some form of traffic violation or other justification for an officer to conduct a traffic stop of the vehicle.

### 3.0 **AUTHORIZATION:**

South Carolina state law sets forth authorization for police operation of emergency vehicles. These statutes include criminal violations for failure to stop for a law enforcement vehicle and operation of authorized emergency vehicles under Title 56 of South Carolina Code of Law 56-5-760. Title 17 of South Carolina Code of laws, Chapter 13 sets forth police jurisdiction during pursuits and instances when all citizens have arrest powers. **This policy shall comply with the limitations and allowances of all statutes, with additional guidance and direction as detailed herein.**

Privileges and conditions for Emergency Vehicle operations, as set forth in South Carolina state law, include: **SECTION 56-5-760. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.**

(A) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions of this section.

(B) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- (1) park or stand, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter;
- (2) proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (3) exceed the maximum speed limit if he does not endanger life or property;



(4) disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(C) The exemptions in this section granted to an authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the vehicle is making use of an audible signal meeting the requirements of Section 56-5-4970 and visual signals meeting the requirements of Section 56-5-4700 of this chapter, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not use an audible signal nor display a visual signal when the vehicle is being used to:

(1) obtain evidence of a speeding violation;

(2) respond to a suspected crime in progress when use of an audible or visual signal, or both, could reasonably result in the destruction of evidence or escape of a suspect; or

(3) surveil another vehicle or its occupants who are suspected of involvement in a crime.

(D) The provisions of this section do not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

#### 4.0 **EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION**

Call priorities and information about the call for service (CFS) will aid in determining an appropriate response level.

4.1 There are three priority levels of call for service (CFS) priority:

4.1.1 **CFS Priority One** (Emergency Response): This priority level represents an in-progress or serious situation where an immediate threat exists to life, bodily harm, public safety, and/or property. Delayed response could result in increased risk to individuals, the public, property, or of suspects escaping. Examples of situations warranting a Priority One response include, but are not limited to:

- 4.1.1.1 Serious crimes in progress;
- 4.1.1.2 In-progress crimes involving physical violence or weapons;
- 4.1.1.3 Hold up and panic alarms;
- 4.1.1.4 Officer calls for immediate assistance;
- 4.1.1.5 Foot or vehicular pursuits;
- 4.1.1.6 Vehicle collisions with entrapment, injury, possibility of fire, or other circumstances where a delayed



- response could adversely affect management of the situation;
  - 4.1.1.7 EMS calls where serious or life-threatening injuries or illness is reported;
  - 4.1.1.8 Response by specialized team members to an incident where threat to life or other serious circumstances exist;
  - 4.1.1.9 Fires, industrial accidents, or other types of incidents where a serious threat to individuals or the public exists;
  - 4.1.1.10 Any other serious and in-progress situation where delayed response could be detrimental to management of the incident.
- 4.1.2 **CFS Priority Two (Non-emergency Response):** This priority level represents situations where an immediate response by officers is needed but does not warrant an emergency response. Examples of situations warranting a Priority Two response include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.1.2.1 Disputes or disorderly behavior without physical violence or weapons involved;
  - 4.1.2.2 Suspicious persons or vehicle calls without extenuating circumstances warranting a heightened response;
  - 4.1.2.3 Minor in-progress property crimes without extenuating circumstances warranting a heightened response;
  - 4.1.2.4 Fire, EMS, or accidents calls without immediate threat to life or public safety;
  - 4.1.2.5 General alarm calls;
  - 4.1.2.6 Collisions without injuries or circumstances posing an immediate hazard to those involved, the public, or traffic flow;
  - 4.1.2.7 Minor property crimes where suspect or suspects are still on scene or perishable evidence needs to be collected;
  - 4.1.2.8 Any other type of call where a delayed response could be detrimental to management of the situation or investigation, but an emergency response is not warranted.
- 4.1.3 **CFS Priority Three (Delayed Dispatch, Non-emergency Response):** This priority level represents situations where no emergency is involved and there is limited potential for the situation to escalate into an emergency situation. A delayed response would be unlikely to have an adverse effect on persons involved, the public, or the ability of personnel to investigate the



incident. Officers assigned CFS Priority Three calls may be dispatched or respond to higher priority calls as needed. Examples of situations warranting a Priority Three response include, but are not limited to:

- 4.1.3.1 Non-violent crimes or incidents which have already occurred and suspects are no longer present;
- 4.1.3.2 Shoplifters in custody;
- 4.1.3.3 911 disconnect calls where there is no indication that a serious situation exists;
- 4.1.3.4 Noise or nuisance activity complaints;
- 4.1.3.5 Traffic related incidents where no immediate threat to individuals or public safety exist;
- 4.1.3.6 Follow-up investigations;
- 4.1.3.7 Requests for information;
- 4.1.3.8 Message delivery;
- 4.1.3.9 Escorts;
- 4.1.3.10 Any other situation where a delayed response would not expose individuals or the public to risk or adversely affect investigation of a crime.

4.2 Officer Response levels are as follow:

- 4.2.1 **Priority One** (Emergency Response): This response level authorizes officers to respond in an emergency response mode. Conditions and facts of the situation warrant continuous use of emergency equipment (minimum of blue lights and siren). Officers may operate their vehicle as an Authorized Emergency Vehicle as allowed by state law. Officers are responsible for ensuring intersections are clear and safe before proceeding through.
- 4.2.2 **Priority Two** (Non-emergency Response): This response level authorizes officers to respond in a non-emergency response mode. Officers respond while obeying all traffic laws and no emergency equipment is needed or used. Priority Two will be utilized for all calls that do not warrant a Priority One response.

4.3 CFS Priority is designated in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

4.4 CFS Priority Three calls may be held by Communications for fifteen (15) minutes without field supervisor approval.



- 4.5 Officers may be dispatched or may respond outside of their assigned patrol zones for CFS Priority One and CFS Priority Two calls. Officers will not be dispatched out of their assigned patrol zones for a CFS Priority Three call unless authorized by a supervisor.
- 4.6 Officers may self-initiate response to a CFS Priority Three Call without supervisor approval.
- 4.7 Supervisors may upgrade or downgrade priority response levels at their discretion.
- 4.8 Officers are authorized to initiate a Priority One (emergency) response on their own initiative for in-progress violent felonies, incidents in which there is a strong possibility of serious injury or death, or when an officer needs emergency or urgent assistance. When an officer initiates a Priority One emergency response, the officer must advise Communications of their response level. The response does not have to be approved by a supervisor; however, a supervisor may downgrade the response to a Priority Two non-emergency response. Situations in which officers may initiate a Priority One emergency response include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.8.1 Officers needing emergency or urgent assistance (whether stated by the officer or perceived by other officers);
  - 4.8.2 An officer involved in a foot or vehicular pursuit;
  - 4.8.3 When an officer is not responding to a radio status check after three calls from Communications;
  - 4.8.4 Situations involving a potential imminent threat to human life or serious bodily injury, to include CFS Priority One Calls
- 4.9 **Officer Assistance Response:** Emergency or urgent need for assistance will automatically clear officers for a Priority One emergency response based on the following guidelines:
  - 4.9.1 **Emergency Assistance (10-41A):** All units are automatically cleared for a Priority One emergency response. This is a declared emergency situation with potential imminent threat to life or serious bodily injury.
    - 4.9.1.1 With the exception of 4.8.1.2 below, officers need not advise that they are enroute or request permission for Priority One response.



- 4.9.1.2 Only officers close to the location will advise they are enroute.
- 4.9.1.3 Once Communications has confirmed that at least two units are enroute other responding units will not advise they are enroute on the primary frequency.
- 4.9.1.4 Once the imminent threat has been alleviated the requesting officer or a supervisor will advise Communications and all responding units that the situation has stabilized and Priority One response has been cancelled.
- 4.9.2 **Urgent Assistance (10-41B):** Only units in the same or adjoining zones are automatically cleared for a Priority One emergency response. This is a potentially dangerous situation where an officer needs immediate assistance but the situation does not warrant an Emergency Assistance (10-41A) alert.
  - 4.9.2.1 Responding units will advise that they are enroute.
  - 4.9.2.2 Supervisors may downgrade the response level or cancel additional units once an adequate number of units are enroute.
  - 4.9.2.3 The requesting officer or supervisor on the scene will keep Communications and all units advised of the status of the situation and the need for additional assistance.
- 4.9.3 **Routine Backup (10-41C):** The closest available unit or units will be assigned and will respond in a Priority Two response unless otherwise directed or requested.
- 4.10 When sufficient units are on-scene and no further assisting units are needed, an officer on the scene or supervisor shall cancel all further units. In such cases, officers who are not on-scene must take responsibility to cease their response and proceed back to their assigned response zones.
- 4.11 When assisting a motorist on the roadway, or when parking in the roadway, emergency equipment and auxiliary lighting will be engaged as necessary to provide a safe environment for the officer(s) on the scene and the public at large.
- 4.12 Members of specialized teams may respond in a Priority One mode at the discretion of the scene commander or team supervisor.



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1/14/2025

Date

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