

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION	Document Number	GO 807
	Revision Date	06-13-2023
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the operation of police emergency vehicles.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED

Sworn personnel

3. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Hawai'i Police Department that personnel authorized to operate emergency vehicles shall do so in accordance with department policy, State, and County laws.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. **Authorized emergency vehicle** – A fleet owned or subsidized vehicle equipped with emergency blue lights, police radio, and siren that is authorized and approved by the Police Chief for use as an emergency vehicle.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4.5. **Non-Emergency Calls for Service** – An occurrence requiring police service/response. However, due to its routine circumstances, does not require an emergency response.

4.6. **Emergency Calls for Service** – A sudden, unexpected occurrence which would demand immediate police interaction.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Personnel

5.1.1. All sworn personnel, including reserve officers, are authorized to operate emergency vehicles in accordance with this directive.

5.1.2. Personnel shall ensure that emergency equipment associated with this directive is operational prior to their regular tour of duty.

5.1.3. Personnel shall use available occupant safety restraint devices, including the use of child restraint devices, as applicable.

5.2. Supervisors

5.2.1. In addition to operational requirements, all supervisory personnel shall monitor, assess, and direct any emergency response by personnel under their command.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. Authorized Police Emergency Vehicles

6.1.1. Only those vehicles equipped with approved emergency equipment (emergency blue lights, police radio, and siren) installed with and in a manner approved by the Police Chief shall be authorized for use as police emergency vehicles.

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6.2. Emergency Equipment

6.2.1. Emergency equipment may be used whenever the circumstances of an incident indicate that such a response is warranted to protect the public or assist a law enforcement officer.

6.2.2. Blue Roof-Top Emergency Light

- a. The blue roof-top emergency light shall be mounted on patrol vehicles during on duty hours;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- d. When conditions at an emergency scene dictate, the blue roof-top emergency light shall be left on in the flashing position;
- e. When off duty, the blue roof-top emergency light shall be removed and stored for safekeeping. The adapter strap may be removed and stored for safekeeping;
- f. No driver other than a police officer may operate a police vehicle when the blue roof-top emergency light is mounted.

6.2.3. Blue Visor-Mounted Emergency Light/Personally Owned Blue Flashing Lights

- a. Sworn personnel assigned a blue visor-mounted emergency light or who have approved/authorized emergency lights are authorized to use them in emergency situations that would require their use.
- b. Specifications for personally owned blue flashing lights shall be in accordance with General Orders 802 Appendix A.

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6.2.4. Siren

- a. When it is deemed necessary to utilize the siren, the blue roof-top, visor-mounted emergency light and the headlights of a vehicle shall also be in operation.
- b. The siren shall not be used when responding to routine miscellaneous complaints, minor accidents, major traffic accidents without reported injury, and during periods of light traffic such as the early morning hours of First Watch, unless authorized to do so by competent authority.
- c. Siren Tones

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 6.2.5. Public Address (PA) System – The PA system may be utilized during traffic stops and any other situation when deemed necessary. Personnel shall exercise good judgment and discretion in the use of the siren and PA system.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 6.5.2. When a vehicle is being operated Code Three, the officer driving will use the blue emergency lights, headlights, and siren. Neither the siren nor the blue emergency lights alone are sufficient; both must be used for the response to be considered emergency in nature.

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6.5.5. The authority to drive contrary to regulatory codes does not relieve officers of the responsibility of exercising due regard for others.

6.5.6. When regulating speed and driving behavior, officers should give consideration to such factors as the nature and seriousness of the offense or suspected offense, weather conditions, traffic control devices, character of the neighborhood, traffic volume and road and vehicle conditions.

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6.6. Operation of Police Emergency Vehicles

6.6.1. Authority to Operate – The Statewide Traffic Code permits authorized emergency vehicles to be operated in an emergency manner:

- a. In response to an emergency call; or
- b. In immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.6.3. Special Duty Escort Services – Officers may utilize blue emergency lights on subsidized police vehicles when providing special duty escort services. In such instances, police vehicles are not considered emergency vehicles and officers operating such vehicles shall follow all traffic rules and regulations.

6.7. Exceptions to Use – The Police Chief may authorize exceptions regarding the use of emergency equipment or vehicles.