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| <p>MESA POLICE</p> <p>Department Policy Manual</p> | <p>Code-3 Response</p> | <p>DPM 2.3.15</p> <p>Effective 06/16/2014 Revised 09/10/2015 Reviewed 08/05/2025</p> |
| <p>Approved by: Chief of Police</p> | <p>Chapter: Emergency Vehicle Operations</p> | <p>Page: 1 of 3</p> |

1. PURPOSE

This policy provide Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with authorization guidelines for the use of Code-3. [\[ALEAP 21.1A\]](#)

2. GENERAL

2.1 Code-3 Calls [\[ALEAP 21.1A,D\]](#)

- A. Calls for police service may justify proceeding Code-3 if any of the following elements are present:
1. The preservation of life.
 2. A crime of violence is in progress.
 3. The prevention of a crime of violence.
 4. An immediate pursuit.
 5. A unit at the scene requests another unit "Code-3."

2.2 Determining Code-3 Response [\[ALEAP 21.1A,D\]](#)

- A. Prior to the assignment of the call:
1. Communications determines if the call requires an emergency priority level.
 2. The assignment of an emergency priority level to any radio call identifies it as a Code-3 response at the officer's discretion (when authorized under the above section).
 3. When a call for service is based upon information received by the officer from sources other than Communications, the decision must be based on information that justifies immediate police attention.

2.3 Use of Emergency Lights & Siren [\[ALEAP 21.1D\]](#)

- A. Use on all authorized Code-3 situations.
- B. Use both the emergency lights and siren on marked police units.
- C. Use concealed siren, portable emergency lights and headlights (including daytime) on unmarked police units.
- D. An unmarked unit must have a siren on and emergency lights in operation to operate Code-3.
- E. **Under no circumstances** are vehicles not equipped with sirens and emergency lights to be used as emergency vehicles.
- F. Do not activate the emergency lights and siren together unless:
 1. The driver has cause under the exemptions of [ARS 28-624](#); OR

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2. Their use is required in a non-emergency police procedure.
- G. Emergency lights alone may be used as a means of stopping violators or suspects and on stopped police units in order to minimize traffic hazards.

2.4 Driving Code-3 [ALEAP 21.1D]

- A. When practical, but not when it would interrupt emergency traffic, advise Communications in a clear, calm manner, “**(Unit Identifier) responding Code-3.**”
- B. When running “Code-3” in response to an emergency or in pursuit of a violator, consider the following factors:
 1. Traffic volume.
 2. Time of day.
 3. Type of crime or violation involved.
 4. Location and direction of travel (e.g., toward very congested areas, schools, residential areas, large public gatherings, etc.).
 5. Vehicle condition and limitations.
 6. Weather conditions (e.g., rain, fog, dust storms, etc.).
 7. Road conditions.
- C. Officers are authorized to drive up to 25 mph over the speed limit when responding “Code 3” under favorable conditions (e.g.; light/moderate traffic, good roads, good visibility, etc.) while responding to an emergency or in pursuit of a violator and in the performance of a law enforcement function. Officers must drive at a speed which is reasonable and prudent for the actual and potential hazards that exist.
- D. Officers are authorized to exceed the speed limit by more than 25 mph when responding “Code 3” during extreme circumstances while responding to an emergency or in pursuit of a violator and in the performance of a law enforcement function. Officers must drive at a speed which is reasonable and prudent for the actual and potential hazards that exist.
 1. Officers may be required to justify exceeding the speed limit by more than 25 mph while driving “Code 3” to their affected Division Commander upon request. It is the Division Commander’s responsibility to determine if the speed was justifiable under the conditions (e.g., traffic, weather, roadway, severity of the crime, distance from officers requesting backup, etc.).
- E. Under all circumstances officers shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and will be held accountable for any reckless disregard for the safety of others.

3. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Monitor Code-3 situations to ensure Code-3 response is necessary and is conducted in compliance with Department policies and procedures.

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REFERENCES

- [DPM 2.3.1 Philosophy & Definitions](#)