

The Tarrant County College District Police Department

GENERAL ORDER

	SUBJECT OFFICER RESPONSE TO CALLS	GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 405.00
	CALEA STANDARDS	EFFECTIVE DATE May 1. 2015
		REVISION DATE
	APPROVAL Shaun Williams, Chief of Police	PAGES 3

Policy Statement – This General Order provides for the safe and appropriate response to all emergency and non-emergency situations.

405.01 – RESPONSE TO CALLS

A. Officers responding to an emergency call shall proceed immediately. Officers responding to an emergency call **Priority 1**, shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary (*Texas Transportation Code § 546.003*).

Responding with emergency light(s) and siren does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle of the duty to act as a reasonably prudent emergency vehicle operator in like circumstances (*Texas Transportation Code § 546.005*). The use of any other warning equipment without emergency lights and siren does not provide any exemption from the *Texas Transportation Code*.

Officers should only respond **Priority 1** when so dispatched or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required. Officers not responding **Priority 1** shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

405.02 – REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A. Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel reasonably believe there is an imminent threat to the safety of officers or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. In any event, where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall immediately notify Central Communications.

If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information:

1. The Unit Number.
2. The Location.
3. The reason for the request and type of emergency existing.
4. Number of additional units required.

405.03 – NUMBER OF UNITS PARTICIPATING

- A. Normally, only those units reasonably necessary should respond to an emergency call **Priority 1**. The Campus Commander or the Shift Supervisor should monitor all emergency responses and reduce or enhance the response as warranted.

405.04 – INITIATION Priority 3 RESPONSE

- A. If an officer believes a **Priority 1** response to any call is appropriate, the officer should immediately notify Central Communications if possible. **Priority 1** responses of more than one unit should include, if circumstances permit, coordination of the response by the second responding unit to avoid unanticipated intersecting of response routes. A **Priority 1** response of more than one unit should initiate notification by Central Communications of the Campus Commander or Shift Supervisor of the response. The Campus Commander or Shift Supervisor will make a determination regarding the appropriateness of the response and reduce or enhance the response as warranted.

405.05 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICER(s)

- A. Officers shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. Officers shall reduce speed at all street intersections to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle (*Texas Transportation Code § 546.001*).
- B. The decision to continue a **Priority 1** response is at the discretion of the officer. If, in the officer's judgment, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion does not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the officer may elect to respond to the call without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the officer should immediately notify Central Communications. An officer shall also discontinue the **Priority 1** response when directed by a supervisor.
- C. Upon determining that a **Priority 1** response is appropriate, an officer shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

405.06 – COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES (Also see General Order 612.00)

- A. A Communications Officer(s) shall ensure acknowledgment and response of assisting units when an officer requests emergency assistance or available information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death and immediate police response is needed. In all other circumstances, the Communications Officer(s) shall obtain authorization from the Campus Commander or a Shift Supervisor prior to assigning an emergency response. The Communications Officer(s) shall:
 1. Attempt to assign the closest available unit to the location requiring assistance.
 2. Immediately notify the Campus Commander.
 3. Confirm the location from which any unit is responding.
 4. Notify and coordinate allied emergency services (e.g., Fire & Ambulance)
 5. Continue to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response and monitor the situation until it is stabilized or terminated.
 6. Control **ALL** radio communications during the emergency and coordinate assistance under the direction of the Campus Commander or Shift Supervisor.

405.07 – FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- A. If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the officer **MUST TERMINATE** the **Priority 1** response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the officer shall notify the Campus Commander and/or Shift Supervisor as well as Central Communications of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.