


**Department of Public Safety**  
**Police Division**  
**Policies and Procedures**

<u><b>Title</b></u>  <b>Response to Emergency, Non-Emergency and Urgent Calls</b>	<u><b>SOP Number</b></u>  <b>9.1.300</b>
<b>Approval Signature</b> 	
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## ***Response to Emergency, Non-Emergency and Urgent Calls***

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to University of Cincinnati Police Division (UCPD) officers in responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service, including the use of authorized emergency equipment on department vehicles.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of UCPD to respond to calls for service and incidents in a prompt, safe and effective manner.

### **III. Definitions:**

**Authorized Emergency Vehicle:** A vehicle of this agency equipped with operable emergency equipment as designated by state law.

**Due Regard:** The consideration of existing circumstances to determine the reasonableness of one's actions as they relate to existing or potential hazards.

**Emergency Calls for Service:** A call for police service involving, but not limited to, crimes in progress, felonies, accidents with injuries, and other life-threatening situations or inherently dangerous situations that demand an immediate response, including an officer in need of assistance.

**Non-Emergency Calls for Service:** A call for police service where a quick response is not essential for the preservation of life or property including, but not limited to, crimes not in progress where no one remains in jeopardy.

**Urgent Calls for Service:** A call for police service requiring officers to proceed immediately and directly to the call, but not at the level of an emergency response.

### **IV. Procedure:**

#### **A. Emergency Calls for Service**

1. UCPD officers may only operate UCPD vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles when responding to an emergency call for service and must operate the vehicle in accordance with the following requirements:
  - a. When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in pursuit of a violator, officers shall use the vehicle's emergency lights, headlights, and siren to warn vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
  - b. A supervisor may request units to respond on an emergency response to any type of emergency call or may advise responding units to cancel their emergency response to any situation.
  - c. Officers will immediately terminate emergency vehicle operation when advised to do so by a supervisor.
  - d. The operation of a vehicle with emergency lights and sirens requires the right-of-way be granted by other vehicles and pedestrians but does not relieve the operator of the emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.

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- e. When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in pursuit of a violator, officers may exceed the posted speed limit as long as they drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway. However if the responding officers believes there is a necessity to exceed the posted speed limit by more than 15 miles per hour, the officer will obtain approval from the on-duty patrol supervisor.
  - f. When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in pursuit of a violator, officers shall come to a complete stop at stop signs and red traffic signals, prior to proceeding through a stop sign or red traffic signal with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.
  - g. When responding to an emergency call or when engaged in pursuit of a violator, officers may disregard other regulations specified by law, operating with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.
  - h. Officers may disregard parking regulations, which would apply under normal circumstances, especially to protect accident scenes, injured persons, or officers directing traffic, when emergency lights are left on.
  - i. Officers shall not park so as to block access to a fire hydrant or so as to obstruct access of fire, rescue, or EMS vehicles.
  - j. Officers responding to an emergency shall advise radio communications when they initiate emergency response, i.e. "9111 is responding Code 3 to the injury accident", which will give the supervisor time to evaluate the location and number of officers responding.
2. The operation of emergency equipment will be governed by the following guidelines:
- a. Officers shall use emergency (rotating/flashing) lights to signal other drivers:
    - 1) When responding to an emergency (in conjunction with siren and headlights).
    - 2) When stopping a traffic violator.
    - 3) When assisting motorists parked/stopped in hazardous locations.
    - 4) Any other time when the patrol vehicle is stopped/parked on the roadway (unless legally parked).
  - b. Emergency lights shall be activated at all times when the siren is activated
  - c. The siren may be used to signal violators to drive to the right of the road when other means of attracting the violator's attention have failed. In addition, the public address system may be used to give direction to a violator the officer is stopping.
  - d. In low-light conditions, the spotlight and/or "take-down" lights should be used as a protection to the officer when hazardous conditions exist in dealing with known or suspected felons.
  - e. In low-light conditions, the spotlight and/or "take-down" lights should be used to illuminate the interior of a violator's vehicle so that all occupants are kept within view and at a distinct disadvantage when looking back toward the police vehicle and officer.

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- f. When using the spotlight, the officer should exercise care in remaining behind the spotlight so he/she is not at the same disadvantage and silhouetted by the light.
- g. The public address system may be particularly valuable when stopping a traffic violator.
- h. The public address system may be used to direct persons in unusual or emergency conditions.

### **B. Urgent Calls for Service**

- 1. When responding to urgent calls for service, UCPD officers will proceed immediately and directly to the call. Officers will utilize normal driving techniques and obey all applicable traffic laws

### **C. Non-Emergency Calls for Service**

- 1. When responding to non-emergency calls for service, officers operating UCPD vehicles will obey all traffic laws and operate the vehicles in a safe and courteous manner.