

Deputy Response to Calls

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to emergency and non-emergency situations by Sheriff's Office vehicles.

308.2 RESPONSE TO CALLS

Deputies using emergency lights and siren shall consider the call an emergency response and proceed accordingly. Deputies operating Sheriff's Office vehicles using emergency lights and siren shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary.

The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may (625 ILCS 5/11-205):

- (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS).
- (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be required and necessary for safe operation.
- (c) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he/she does not endanger life or property.
- (d) Disregard regulations governing the direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is not relieved from the duty of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others (625 ILCS 5/11-205(e)).

Deputies should only respond using emergency lights and siren when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required. Deputies not engaged in an emergency response, 10-39 shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

308.3 REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel reasonably believe that there is an immediate threat to the safety of deputies, 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 deputy shall immediately notify Communications Division.

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

- The unit number
- The location

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- The reason for the request and type of emergency
- The number of units required

308.3.1 NUMBER OF UNITS ASSIGNED

Normally, only one unit should respond to an emergency call 10-39 unless the Shift Sergeant or OIC authorizes an additional unit(s).

308.4 INITIATING 10-39 RESPONSE

Generally, only one unit should respond 10-39 to any situation. Should another deputy believe a 10-39 response is appropriate, the Shift Sergeant or OIC will make a determination as to whether one or more deputies driving 10-39 is appropriate.

308.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING DEPUTY(S)

Deputies shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. Deputies shall reduce speed or come to a stop if necessary at all street intersections to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle.

The decision to continue a 10-39 response is at the discretion of the deputy. If in the deputy's judgment, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion does not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the deputy should elect to respond to the call without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the deputy should immediately notify Communications Division. A deputy shall also discontinue the 10-39 response when directed by a supervisor.

Upon receiving authorization or determining a 10-39 response is appropriate, a deputy shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

- (a) All deputies shall yield the right of way to fire equipment, ambulances or other life-saving equipment.
- (b) Available vehicle emergency lights will be used by a deputy on an emergency assignment, 10-39. This includes overhead lights, headlights, flashing directionals and others as needed.
- (c) When a siren is in use, it shall be allowed to rise and fall in tone or another appropriate mode, and shall be sounded far in advance of intersections, blind alleys and whenever needed to clear traffic ahead.
- (d) When answering a call of a crime in progress it is recommended that deputies do not use the vehicle siren or emergency lights when approaching the scene at a distance where there use may serve as a warning. The Sheriff's Office vehicle's speed should be adjusted accordingly to comply with traffic laws.
- (e) When attempting to stop a violator, and the risk outweighs the desirability of apprehension or the safety of the operator of the Sheriff's Office vehicle, other vehicles, or pedestrians are in jeopardy; pursuit shall be terminated. Termination is defined as stop the pursuit, return to the posted speed limit, turn off emergency equipment

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(lights and siren), discontinue following the pursued vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit.

308.6 ADDITIONAL USE OF EMERGENCY LIGHTS

- (a) Emergency lights and siren shall be used when it is necessary to stop violators or to alert passing or oncoming drivers to dangerous situations.
- (b) In the event, a deputy is investigating an abandoned vehicle, or an occupied vehicle on or off the roadway, the deputy shall activate at least flashing red/blue lights for identification and safety purposes.

308.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon becoming aware that a 10-39 response has been initiated, the Shift Sergeant or the OIC shall verify the following:

- (a) The proper response has been initiated.
- (b) No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response.
- (c) Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practical.

The patrol supervisor shall monitor the response until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing units into or out of the response if necessary. If in the supervisor's judgment, the circumstances require additional units to be assigned a 10-39 response, the supervisor may do so.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate a 10-39 response that, in his/her judgment is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

When making the decision to authorize a 10-39 response, the Shift Sergeant or the OIC should consider the following:

- The type of call
- The necessity of a timely response
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding units
- Officer safety

308.8 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the deputy must terminate the 10-39 response and respond accordingly, return to the posted speed limit and obey all traffic laws. In all cases, the deputy shall notify the Shift Sergeant, OIC, or Communications Division of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.

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308.9 NO ESCORT SERVICE

No deputy shall, at any time, give high speed or emergency escort to any outside or emergency vehicle. This will include ambulances, other law enforcement vehicles or fire equipment. This does not prohibit routine escort under normal driving conditions.