



**2-6 USE OF EMERGENCY WARNING EQUIPMENT**

**Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):**

A. Related SOP(s)

None

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

NMSA 1978, § 66-7-6 Authorized Emergency Vehicles

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

**2-6-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements for the use of emergency vehicle warning equipment by Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel.

**2-6-2 Policy**

It is the policy of the Department to adhere to statutory restrictions on the use of emergency warning equipment. Emergency warning equipment is employed only under authorized conditions and circumstances in order to minimize the risk of crashes or injuries to personnel or the community.

**N/A**

**2-6-3 Definitions**

A. Authorized Emergency Vehicle

An authorized law enforcement vehicle displaying a government-issued license plate that is equipped with authorized emergency warning equipment and other emergency warning devices required by New Mexico state statute and used for emergency response situations.

B. Authorized Emergency Warning Equipment

Equipment on authorized emergency vehicles that emits audible or visual signals in order to warn others that law enforcement services are in the process of being delivered, such as a siren, flashing or rotating red and blue lights, or amber lights.



C. Code 1 Response

Response in compliance with all traffic regulations without the use of emergency equipment. Calls that require a Code 1 response are non-emergency in nature.

D. Code 3 Response

Response with full emergency equipment in operation. Calls that require a Code 3 response are life threatening in nature or meet any other criteria for an emergency response.

**6** **2-6-4**      **Procedures**

A. Authority for Code Response

1. When sworn personnel respond to an emergency call, or when in pursuit of an individual who has violated or is suspected of violating a law, sworn personnel shall be authorized to exercise the right-of-way privilege, pursuant to the New Mexico state statute on authorized emergency vehicles, if the officer is driving an authorized emergency vehicle and properly using authorized emergency warning equipment.
  - a. This authority does not:
    - i. Relieve the officer who is driving an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of others; or
    - ii. Protect the officer from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.

B. Code Responses by Sworn Personnel

1. Primary and secondary sworn personnel who are dispatched to a life-threatening call for service may respond as a Code 3 with full emergency warning equipment.
2. An officer may request additional units to respond as a Code 3.
3. A supervisor may authorize a Code 3 response to an in-progress felony call for service to prevent the likelihood of an individual's escape and/or to protect life and property.
4. Sworn personnel may downgrade from a Code 3 to a Code 1 response when any of the following conditions are known:
  - a. The call for service is no longer life-threatening;
  - b. Information indicates a violent felony is no longer in progress; or
  - c. The scene is secure.



5. When it is safe to do so, an officer shall disengage their siren when transmitting on the radio or upon arrival to the area of an in-progress call for service.

6. Sworn personnel shall use a Code 1 response for all other calls for service.

C. Supervisor Responsibilities

1. A supervisor shall monitor the number of units responding to a Code 3.

**N/A**

2. A supervisor may direct a code response, other than as provided in this Standard Operating Procedure, if warranted.

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