

Medina Police Department

Subject: Operations of Emergency Vehicles		Policy Number: 2360	Operation of Emergency Vehicles
Reference: Chief's Directive and State Statute		Pages: 2	
Personnel: Sworn and Non-Sworn Personnel			
Issue Date: 01-01-2004	Revised Date: 11-16-2020	Review Date: As Needed	

2360.1 – NORMAL OPERATIONS

Members of the department shall at all times operate City vehicles with due regard for the safety of all persons. When operating under emergency conditions, officers shall carefully balance the risks involved against the public interests, recognizing always that the exemptions provided by law to authorized emergency vehicles do not protect an operator from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.

In many situations, several emergency vehicles may be responding to the scene at the same time. Officers shall be especially alert in these situations to ensure the safe arrival of all emergency vehicles responding. Intersections present a special hazard to emergency vehicles. Officers should always slow the speed of their vehicles when approaching an intersection and be able to stop, if necessary.

2360.2 - AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE SITUATIONS

Officers, by statute, may utilize emergency lighting and/or siren when:

1. Responding to calls of an emergency nature;
2. In pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; or
3. While obtaining evidence of a speeding violation

2360.3 - USE OF WARNING DEVICES

The emergency lights shall be activated whenever an officer, in the course of duty, stops, stands, or parks an assigned vehicle contrary to the rules of the road. Officers may, however, elect to only use vehicle hazard flashers, rather than the emergency lights on their vehicles, whenever it is necessary to stop, stand, or park in a space adjacent to a curb, which is not a legal parking space, as long as the vehicle does not obstruct a traffic lane.

The lights and/or siren shall be used whenever an officer, in the course of duty, passes through a stop sign or signal, operates contrary to regulations governing direction of movement or turning, or exceeds the speed limit.

An officer may exceed the speed limit without giving audible and visual signal, if the officer is obtaining evidence of a speeding violation; however, the officer shall activate this equipment and attempt to stop the violator once sufficient evidence is obtained for the violation.

Officers responding to a call which is reasonably believed to be a felony in progress, may exceed the speed limit without giving audible signal, but should give visual signal when doing so will not compromise a tactical response. When not giving a signal, the officer must reasonably believe that one of the following exists:

1. Knowledge of the officer's presence may endanger the safety of a victim or other person.
2. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to evade apprehension.
3. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to destroy evidence of a suspected felony, or may otherwise result in the loss of evidence of a suspected felony.
4. Knowledge of the officer's presence may cause the suspected violator to cease the commission of a suspected felony before the officer obtains sufficient evidence to establish grounds for arrest.

2360.4 - USE OF OTHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Safety belts will be used in accordance with State Statute and policy.

2360.5 - CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Although civilian members of the department shall, for the protection of the public, operate the emergency lights of a police vehicle if it becomes necessary to stop, stand, or park contrary to the rules of the road (e.g., to protect persons and vehicles at an accident scene or at the location of a traffic hazard until an officer's arrival), they are never authorized to operate the vehicle's emergency lights and/or siren to exceed the speed limit, to operate contrary to regulations governing direction of movement or turning or to pass through a stop sign or signal.