



MidwestRP Emergency Response
-Code 3-
Standard Operating Procedure

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Emergency Response

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MidwestRP Emergency Response

Code 3

Unit I

1) Response Codes

- **Code 1 (Routine Call)**
 - Proceed at your own pace without lights and siren, “take your time.” Obey all traffic laws.
- **Code 2 (Urgent Call)**
 - Proceed immediately **without** lights and siren.
 - Using lights and siren to clear intersections that are backed up and/or preventing your response is allowed
 - Any other reason to use your lights and siren to proceed to your call is at your discretion. Use common sense.
- **Code 3 (Emergency Call)**
 - Proceed immediately **with** lights and siren
 - Get to your call as fast as possible

2) Use of Emergency Warning Devices

LEO Equipment and personnel often are moved within their own jurisdiction as well as outside their jurisdiction during emergencies.

- On emergency responses within jurisdiction, lights and siren will be used as appropriate or as required by law
- When responding to emergencies outside jurisdiction, lights and siren will be used as appropriate or when Code 3 response is requested by the San Andreas Communications Center
- Headlights will be on during all emergency responses

Emergency Response (Cont.)

3) Exemption of Authorized Emergency Vehicles

The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from certain laws relating to speed limits, rights of way, and signs or signals when responding to a call or other emergency, but not when returning from such an emergency. This is true providing the lights are turned on and the siren is sounded sufficiently to warn other drivers and pedestrians.

4) Effect of Exemption

The law requires that the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, which is responding to an emergency, uses good judgement. It does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway, nor does it protect the driver from the consequences of an arbitrary and careless exercise of exemption privileges. An employee, however, is not liable for civil damages arising out of proper operations in the line of duty of an authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call.

5) Emergency Response Vehicle Guidelines

The following guidelines are established in accordance with the San Andreas Vehicle Code:

- The fact that a vehicle is an “Authorized Emergency Vehicle” does not relieve the driver from the duty of compliance with the rules of the road
- Before a pedestrian or motorist can yield the right-of-way, the opportunity to do so must be afforded
- In traversing an intersection (Code 3), the speed of the emergency vehicles must not be greater than that enabling the vehicle to stop without collision should the right-of-way be violated. At times, it may be necessary to come to a complete stop at an intersection and then proceed cautiously after determining that the intersection is clear
- Do not pull up immediately behind a vehicle and sound the siren suddenly. The vehicle may stop right in front of you.
- Do not pass on the right unless no other course is open, and pass then only at a safe speed and after you are positive that the car you are passing will not drive to the right as you go by.

Emergency Response (Cont.)

- Do not sound the siren at its highest pitch continuously. Fluctuate it throughout the tonal range.
- Keep near the center of the roadway so oncoming vehicles can see your lights approaching.
- Do not follow another emergency vehicle too closely. A motorist may yield the first emergency vehicle and then pull out in front of the following vehicle
- The best route of travel for an emergency response often entails driving on a freeway. The use of red lights and siren on a freeway is not required or recommended, providing the vehicle is not exceeding the posted speed limit or disregarding other traffic regulations. The unnecessary use of siren and red lights on a freeway may cause confusion on the part of other vehicles, which may impede the safe flow of traffic.
- The use of the air horn should be kept to a minimum. Excessive use of the air horn may drown out the siren. During a Code 3 response, the air horn normally should be used only when approaching intersections, and then two or three short blasts should suffice.