

WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
SUBJECT: Call Response, Emergency Response		CHAPTER/SECTION NO.: 28.16	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/7/03		REVIEW DATE:	
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: See attached sheet		APPROVED: <u>** See Master File</u> Sheriff	
STANDARD NUMBER: 41.2.1			

## 28.16 Policy

- 28.16.1 UCA 41-6-14, grants the authority to the peace officer to operate an emergency vehicle contrary to laws normally regulating vehicle safety and operation. However, the deputy is not relieved of the responsibility of exercising due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway. The speed and method of operation will be reasonable and prudent. The deputy must be cognizant of external factors such as weather, road conditions, traffic conditions, and the type of area in which the response is occurring.
- 28.16.2 **"Authorized Emergency Vehicle":** in this Office, is equipped with a siren and with authorized emergency warning lights visible for 500 feet in normal sunlight (UCA 41-6-132a and 41-6-146d). Vehicles not equipped with the preceding equipment, or vehicles with such equipment that is inoperative, will not be used as emergency vehicles.
- 28.16.3 **Statutory Requirements:** The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, **may exercise the privileges in section (A) if the operators "lights" and "sound" have been activated (UCA 41-6-14).**
- A. The operator of an authorized emergency

vehicle may:

1. Park or stand at any required location;
2. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
3. Exceed the maximum speed limits if the operator does not endanger life or property; or
4. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

- B. "Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible or visual signals or of a peace deputies vehicle using an audible or visual signal, the operator of every other vehicle shall yield the right of way and immediately move to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of an intersection and shall stop and remain there until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a peace deputy. This section does not relieve the operator of an authorized motor vehicle from the duty to drive with regard for the safety of all persons using the highway." (UCA 41-6-76)

#### 28.16.4 Routine Response

- A. Deputies will respond routinely "Code 10-40" to all calls not designated as an emergency.
- B. A "Code 10-40" response consists of operating the police vehicle by the most direct route to the call while adhering to all traffic regulations, speed limits, and rules of the road. The use of emergency lights and siren during a "Code 10-40" response is not authorized.
- C. Deputies will not "bust" intersections by activating their emergency equipment to enter the intersection then turn the equipment off after exiting the intersection. Deputies should obey all traffic signals and signs

when responding to routine calls.

28.16.5 Emergency Vehicle Operation

- A. Deputies may respond "Code 10-39" to all calls designated an emergency and that require a faster police response than would occur if traffic laws were strictly obeyed.
- B. Only sworn peace officers of the Office will operate police vehicles during a "Code 10-39" response.
- C. Whenever a peace officer initiates a "Code 10-39" response to an emergency call, he/she will advise the communications center of his/her location and his/her response mode.
- D. Manner of Operation:
  - 1. Emergency warning lights and siren will be used at all times when engaging in emergency driving ("Code 10-39"). Deputies will ensure that their seatbelts are fastened.
  - 2. WACDC will be notified when any deputy engages in emergency driving. Deputies driving under emergency conditions will take steps such as rolling up their windows to ensure their radio transmissions are heard.
  - 3. The deputy shall terminate his/her "Code 10-39" response at the earliest possible time. Upon arriving at the emergency scene, the deputy will determine the need for other units to initiate, continue, or terminate and so advise dispatch.
  - 4. The deputy should get to the location of the event as quickly and safely as possible. An emergency response does not automatically authorize excessive speed of the patrol vehicle.
  - 5. Deputies will maintain complete control

of their vehicle at all times. The operating speed of the vehicle shall be kept at a level which allows the deputy to avoid hazards which may be reasonably anticipated, including coming to a stop at intersections until certain the intersection is clear or other drivers are yielding the right of way.

6. The number of cars engaging in emergency driving will be limited to the number of cars justified by the available information about the nature of the call.

E. Emergency Calls

1. Deputies may respond in emergency mode "Code 10-39" while responding to the following:
  - a. Injury or probable injury traffic accidents.
  - b. Calls involving serious injury or where the extent of injury is unknown and deputies can safely arrive before other medical help.
  - c. Crimes against persons reported in progress, holdup or panic alarms, or hazard which immediately endangers human life.
  - d. Calls assigned by the communications center which are designated as emergencies when dispatched, such as but not limited to, response to the scene of major crimes where prompt arrival could facilitate apprehension of the suspect, preserve evidence etc.
  - e. When directed by a supervisor.
  - f. Code "10-33". Another Deputy needs assistance for personal safety.

g. A disaster requiring evacuation, crowd control etc.

2. Vehicle pursuits are covered in the following section of this chapter.

F. Discontinuance of Emergency Responses

1. Deputies should not feel compelled to continue a "Code 10-39" response when conditions escalate to a degree which places the safety of the deputy or others in jeopardy. Conditions which must be evaluated continuously are:

a. The capabilities of the deputy to control the operation of the vehicle.

b. Vehicle speed in relation to road conditions.

c. The degree of emergency or threat to others.

G. Supervisory Responsibility During Emergency Responses

1. Supervisors have the responsibility to monitor the use of emergency responses by subordinates. When such assignments originate through the communications center, the supervisor may increase or decrease the classification of the response. A supervisor may terminate a "Code 10-39" response at any time.

28.16.6 Office Restrictions on Emergency Driving

A. Emergency Escort of Private Vehicles

1. **Emergency escorts (Code 10-39) are not authorized** due to the liability and public danger involved. If an deputy is requested to provide an escort to a private citizen he/she may:

a. Summon emergency medical aid to the

current emergency location.

- b. Offer any other type of assistance that is appropriate.

B. Holding Intersections for Ambulances:

- 1. Permitted when such a request is made by medical staff from a scene; and
- 2. Deputies have sufficient time to arrive and hold such intersections safely.

C. Deputies will drive at no more than 20MPH over the posted speed limit, except when in pursuit.

D. Deputies will not drive past a school bus with flashing red or yellow lights or through a school zone, as designated by a flashing yellow lights, at more than 20 MPH.

E. Deputies will slow to below 15 MPH before entering intersections against red lights or stop signs, and shall determine that all cross traffic has yielded before crossing such intersections.

F. All passing will be done on the left when possible. If the deputy must turn right across traffic from the left lanes, the deputy will slow and wait until such traffic has yielded.

G. Deputies will drive to minimize the effects of gravel, water, and other similar objects on other vehicles and persons if traveling off of a paved roadway.

H. Except as necessitated by a serious emergency situation, vehicles without emergency equipment will not be used for any emergency driving or pullovers.

I. High beam headlights, spotlights, alley lights, and flashlights can all be used to the deputies' advantage on traffic stops, motorist assists, traffic accidents, and

general area searches.

1. Deputy discretion should be used in positioning lights and avoiding positioning lights in a manner likely to interfere with homes, businesses, and vehicular traffic.
2. The public address system can be used for crowd control, communication with traffic violator, communication with pedestrian violators, felony stops, and in situations where the distance from or the number of persons involved would require voice amplification.