

EMERGENCY OPERATION OF PATROL VEHICLES

Situations frequently occur which require prompt police service. True emergencies requiring rapid police response and pursuit of actual or suspected violators of the law necessitates operation of patrol vehicles at speeds above normal and in conflict with the traffic law and existing traffic control devices. This necessity does not relieve the member driving the patrol vehicle from the responsibility to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

Members responding to emergency situations or in pursuit of actual or suspected violators of the law must realize that the safety of the motoring public and the member himself is of first importance.

The hazards created by the emergency operation of the patrol vehicle should be weighed against the reported emergency or the seriousness of a continuing violation of the law.

Privilege of right of way should be disregarded with extreme caution and speed limits exceeded only without danger to life and property.

Red warning lights and siren should be used in every emergency response situation, unless precluded for security reasons. Underestimating their limitations and the excitement caused by their use increases the hazard.

The privileges of emergency vehicle operation should not be abused and the reckless operation of a patrol vehicle in disregard for the safety of others will be regarded as prima facie evidence of personal negligence.