

TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

<i>Effective Date</i> <b>February 1, 2008</b>		<i>Amended Date</i>		<i>Directive</i> <b>7.15.1</b>	
<i>Subject</i> <b>Non Emergency and Emergency Response</b>					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> <b>All Personnel City Manager City Attorney</b>		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> <b>7.15.1 Non Emergency and Emergency Response</b>		<i>Review Date</i> <b>October 16,2023</b>	
				<i>Pages</i> <b>2</b>	

**This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.**

**SECTION 1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this directive is to establish policy, procedures and guidelines governing police responses and provide some guidance for emergency vehicle operations.

**SECTION 2 POLICY**

It is the policy of the Department to respond to calls for police service in the most expeditious manner possible taking into consideration such factors as actual and potential threats to human safety, the need to arrive as quickly as possible, the possibility of alerting a criminal to our pending arrival, and the general safety of the public at large. It is also the policy of the Department that officers will respond to calls for service in accordance with the provisions set forth in this directive.

**SECTION 3 PROCEDURES**

**A. EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS**

1. All Emergency Vehicle operations will comply with the Texas Transportation Code Sections 546.001, 546.002, 546.003, 546.004, 546.005 and any and all other sections related to the operation of emergency vehicles.
2. An officer must drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and must never operate any vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of life and/or property. At all times, the officer must balance the need for his actions versus the risks involved. Officers should bear in mind that their actions while driving may be reviewed by ordinary citizens under controlled circumstances.
3. In all police vehicle operations especially emergency driving in Code 3 (lights, sirens, and audio/video equipment), the officer must take into consideration the following:
  - a. Time of day.
  - b. Weather conditions.

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- c. Type of neighborhood.
  - d. Type of road and surface condition.
  - e. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
  - f. Police vehicle condition.
  - g. The necessity of the emergency response.
- 4. Unless otherwise directed by a supervisor, officers are authorized to respond Code 3 when the officer can articulate facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe an immediate emergency response was necessary.
  - 5. Officers will not violate traffic laws unless ALL emergency equipment, i.e. lights, siren, audio/video equipment are activated.

**B. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
- 2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.