

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATION	Document Number	GO 807
	Effective Date	08-05-11
	Revisions	Underlined
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the operation of police emergency vehicles.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED

All sworn personnel.

3. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Hawai'i Police Department that members authorized to operate emergency vehicles shall do so in accordance with department policy, State and County laws.

4. DEFINITIONS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Members

5.1.1. All sworn members, including reserve members, are authorized to operate emergency vehicles in accordance with this directive.

5.1.2. Members shall ensure that emergency equipment associated with this directive is operational prior to their regular tour of duty.

5.1.3. Members shall use available occupant safety restraint devices, including the use of child restraint devices, as applicable.

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5.2. Supervisors

5.2.1. In addition to operational requirements, all supervisory members shall monitor, assess, and advise any emergency response by members under their command.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. Authorized Police Emergency Vehicles

6.1.1. Only those vehicles equipped with a siren and blue emergency lights installed with and in a manner approved by the Police Chief shall be authorized for use as police emergency vehicles.

6.1.2. Vehicles not equipped with approved emergency equipment shall not be operated in an emergency manner.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.2. Use of Emergency Equipment

- 6.2.1. Emergency equipment includes the use of blue roof-top or visor-mounted emergency lights, siren and Public Address (PA) system.
- 6.2.2. Emergency equipment may be used whenever the circumstances of an incident indicate that such use is appropriate to protect the public.

6.3. Emergency Equipment

6.3.1. Blue Roof-Top Emergency Light

- a. The blue roof-top emergency light shall be mounted on patrol vehicles during on duty hours;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- d. When conditions at an emergency scene dictate, the blue roof-top emergency light shall be left on in the flashing position;

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- e. When off duty, the blue roof-top emergency light shall be removed and stored for safekeeping. The adapter strap may be removed and stored for safekeeping;
- f. No driver other than a police officer may operate a police vehicle when the blue roof-top emergency light is mounted.

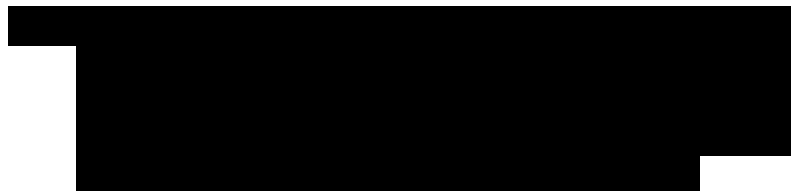
6.3.2. Blue Visor-Mounted Emergency Light

- a. Officers assigned to the Investigative Bureau shall be issued a blue visor-mounted emergency light.
- b. Visor-mounted emergency lights shall be activated in conjunction with the audible siren when responding to emergency calls.

6.3.3. Siren

- a. When it is deemed necessary to utilize the siren, the blue roof-top or visor-mounted emergency light and the headlights of a vehicle shall also be in operation.
- b. The siren shall not be used when responding to routine miscellaneous complaints, minor accidents, major traffic accidents without reported injury, and during periods of light traffic such as the early morning hours during the First Watch, unless authorized to do so by competent authority.

c. Siren Tones



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- Hi-Lo – Under no condition or circumstance will the *Hi-Lo* sound be used.

6.3.4. Public Address (PA) System – The PA system may be utilized during traffic stops and any other situation when deemed necessary. Members shall exercise good judgment and discretion in the use of the siren and PA system.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.4. Operation of Police Emergency Vehicles

6.4.1. Authority to Operate – The Statewide Traffic Code permits authorized emergency vehicles to be operated in an emergency manner:

- a. In response to an emergency call, or;
- b. In immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

6.4.2. Manner of Operation

a. When a vehicle is being operated in an emergency manner, the officer driving will use the blue emergency lights, headlights and siren. Neither the siren nor the blue emergency lights alone are sufficient; both must be used for the response to be considered emergency in nature.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

d. The authority to drive contrary to regulatory codes does not relieve officers of the responsibility of exercising due regard for others. When regulating speed and driving behavior, officers should give consideration to such factors as the nature and seriousness of the offense or suspected offense, weather conditions, traffic control devices, character of the

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neighborhood, traffic volume and road and vehicle conditions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.4.4. Special Duty Escort Services – Officers may utilize blue emergency lights on subsidized police vehicles when providing special duty escort services. In such instances, police vehicles are not considered emergency vehicles and officers operating such vehicles shall follow all traffic rules and regulations.

6.5. Exceptions to Use – The Police Chief may authorize exceptions regarding the use of emergency equipment or vehicles.