



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**EMERGENCY DRIVING**

**OPERATIONAL  
PROCEDURE #440**

Responsible Executive:  
Chief of Police  
Responsible Office:  
Vice President for Public Safety  
Approved by:  
Dr. Branville G. Bard Jr.  
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**Policy Statement**

When responding to calls for service, members of the Johns Hopkins Police Department (JHPD) will operate JHPD motor vehicles in a safe manner and in accordance with the provisions of law.

**Who Is Governed by This Policy**

All sworn police officers, as defined by MD Code, Public Safety, § 3-201 in service with the JHPD are governed by this Directive.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Directive is to establish procedures for responding to emergency and routine calls for service and guidelines for the use of authorized emergency equipment during such activities. All officers will operate departmental vehicles with due regard for the safety of the public when traveling during the performance of their duties. (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) 41.2.1)

## Definitions

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<b>Emergency Response Mode:</b>	Driving with emergency lights and siren activated.
<b>Member:</b>	All members of the JHPD, including employees, officers, and volunteers, unless the term is otherwise qualified (e.g., member of the public, member of the Baltimore Police Department, etc.).
<b>Officer:</b>	All sworn police officers, at any rank, as defined by MD Code, Public Safety, § 3-201, in service with the JHPD.

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## Policy

Officers shall operate all vehicles with the utmost care and caution and will comply with all traffic regulations. While operating in Emergency Response Mode, officers shall comply with Maryland State Law governing emergency vehicle operations. Officers shall weigh the risks of driving in Emergency Response Mode against the nature of the emergency.

## Procedures

### I. **General-Emergency Response Mode** (CALEA 41.2.1.d)

- A. Officers are only permitted to drive in Emergency Response Mode in authorized law enforcement vehicles equipped with and using emergency lights and sirens.
- B. Officers shall not drive in Emergency Response Mode when transporting civilians or prisoners.
- C. Before operating a law enforcement vehicle in Emergency Response Mode, officers shall consider the following:
  - The nature or seriousness of the offense or the call for service
  - Current road or environmental conditions
  - Familiarity with the route and destination
  - Pedestrian and vehicular density
- D. When responding to an emergency call for service, Code 3 (see below), such as an in-progress incident with the potential for injury, or armed person calls, officers are authorized but not required to respond in Emergency Response Mode.
- E. When operating in Emergency Response Mode, in keeping with MD Code, Transportation, § 21-106, officers may do the following:
  - Exceed the speed limit, by no more than 15 miles per hour (mph), so long as officers drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

- Proceed through a red light or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after a full stop at all traffic control devices. For noncontrolled intersections, officers must slow down and clear each intersection for safety before proceeding.
  - Disregard regulations governing turning or movement in a specified direction but must do so in a manner that does not otherwise endanger the safety of the officer, other vehicles, or pedestrians.
- F. At all times, in accordance with MD Code, Transportation, § 21-106, officers shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

## II. **Call Response Categories** (CALEA 41.2.1.b.c)

All calls for service received by the department will be classified into one of three response categories. These categories are guidelines. All personnel must be aware that factors such as new information and command discretion may dictate a change in response. The following are the categories for responding to calls for service:

### A. **Code 3 Response**

Continuous Emergency Response Mode, in response to life-threatening emergencies. These are calls where the immediate presence of police may prevent death or injury or alleviate the threat of death or injury. Calls in this category include, for example:

- Violent felonies or active threats in progress or that have just occurred,
- Other situations, such as medical emergencies, in which the immediate arrival of police could possibly eliminate the threat of or prevent death or injury to persons, and
- Fire Alarms: Many times, fire alarms on campus are the result of criminal damage to fire detection equipment. Only the lead unit will respond Code 3 to fire alarms; secondary units will respond Code 1. If there are additional conditions from the location (multiple devices activating, callers reporting smoke or fire, etc.), then secondary units may respond Code 2 or Code 3.

### B. **Code 2 Response**

Limited use of Emergency Response Mode while adhering to traffic regulations, including posted speed limits, to ease travel through intersections, to pass slow-moving vehicles, and to negotiate other traffic impediments, in response to calls for service in which rapid police response is advantageous but not imperative. Calls in this category include, for example:

- Property crimes in progress that may be halted or persons apprehended with rapid response, and

- Traffic accidents where the situation warrants a police officer on scene immediately to prevent further accidents or injuries.

**C. Code 1 Response** (CALEA 41.2.1.a)

Normal operation of the vehicle, adhering to all traffic regulations, without use of emergency mode, in response to a call for service where expeditious response by police is not required. Calls in this category include, for example:

- Crimes that have already occurred,
- Traffic accidents with property damage only and no hazardous situations,
- Nonemergency assistance to citizens, including affiliates,
- Nonurgent medical calls, and
- Alarm activations (intrusion, panic, fire alarm trouble). It should be noted that response to alarm activations may be upgraded based on verification of a crime in progress, a hazardous condition, or the time/frequency of the alarm.

**III. Use of Emergency Mode During Routine Operations** (CALEA 41.2.1.d)

**A.** During the performance of routine activities, officers may use emergency lights and/or sirens, when necessary. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- Traffic stops
- Motorist assists
- Parking in the roadway
- Crowd or traffic control

**B.** During these types of activities, officers will use the emergency equipment for the purpose of commanding attention. Use of emergency equipment during these activities will be limited to that equipment necessary for the effective performance of the assigned task. See JHPD Directive #442, Traffic Control & Enforcement.

**IV. Emergency Escorts** (CALEA 61.3.3)

**A.** Officers may escort ambulances and other emergency vehicles in an emergency situation, in Emergency Response Mode, when the drivers of these vehicles are unfamiliar with the route to the destination, or when the emergency warning equipment on these vehicles is inoperative.

**B.** Under no circumstances will officers escort private vehicles whose operator or occupant(s) is in need of emergency medical treatment.

- Officers encountering motorists experiencing a medical emergency will immediately request Emergency Medical Services through the Communications Center, or
- Release the vehicle if in close proximity to the medical facility when it appears the operator may safely control the vehicle.

## **V. Responsibilities**

### **A. Communications officers shall do the following:**

- Gather as much information regarding the call as possible from the caller or Baltimore City 911 to properly classify and prioritize calls as Code 1, 2, or 3.
- Relay all pertinent information to patrol sections, as this will affect the justification of the method of response or the need to change category.
- Notify responding officers/supervisors immediately when the communications officer reasonably believes the priority level of the call has changed.
- Provide control of radio communications during the response.
- In addition to the JHPD response, notify Baltimore City 911 to dispatch, if appropriate. Notify the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) when the call for service is related to Group A offenses under the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program, except larceny/theft offenses, burglary/breaking and entering, and motor vehicle theft, for which the JHPD will have primary responsibility for investigations and arrests, along with all Group B offenses under the NIBRS program.
- In addition to the JHPD response, notify Baltimore City 911 to dispatch BPD for all pedestrian and vehicular accident/collision investigations resulting in death or serious bodily harm.

### **B. Responding officers shall do the following:**

- Consider conditions listed above while responding.
- Not exceed speed limits by more than 15 mph and in a manner that is appropriate under the circumstances.
- Advise the Communications Center of any situations that would warrant a higher or lower code response.
- Notify CC upon arrival and provide a status report as soon as possible.

### **C. Supervisors**

Supervisors will be held strictly accountable for the emergency response conduct of their officers and shall do the following:

- Verify that the proper number and type of units are responding.
- Monitor and manage responses (as assigned, upgrade, or downgrade) or discontinue any emergency response.
- Ensure that emergency response procedures are adhered to at all times.
- On a monthly basis, complete a driver’s license check to ensure each JHPD officer’s driver’s license is valid.

## Policy Enforcement

<b>Enforcement</b>	Police Department managers and supervisors are responsible for enforcing this Directive.
<b>Reporting Violations</b>	Suspected violations of this Directive should be reported to the Public Safety Accountability Unit.

## Related Resources

<b>University Policies and Documents</b>
Operational Procedure #442, Traffic Control & Enforcement
<b>External Documentation</b>
<b>Police Department Forms and Systems</b>
<a href="https://powerdms.com/ui/login">https://powerdms.com/ui/login</a>

## Contacts

Subject Matter	Office Name	Telephone Number	Email/Web Address
Policy Clarification and Interpretation	Policy Management	(667)306-8618	<a href="mailto:jhpdpolicyinquiry@jh.edu">jhpdpolicyinquiry@jh.edu</a>