
Purpose

To establish policy for the safe and lawful operation of agency emergency vehicles.

Policy

Sworn Cecil County Sheriff's Office employees will, in the performance of their duties, operate agency motor vehicles in a manner consistent with safety and in accordance with the provisions of Maryland law.

Procedure

A. Life and Death Emergency

A Life and Death Emergency is when the presence of a deputy will save a life and where reducing the arrival time can make a difference in the final result. A Life and Death Emergency includes the following:

1. When another deputy or police officer has placed a call for immediate assistance.
2. When a life – threatening crime is in progress or has just occurred.

B. Operating Speeds

Vehicle operating speed during a life and death emergency may exceed the posted speed limits, consistent with safety and statutory exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle when the vehicle is making use of audible and visual signals.

C. Code 1

1. Code 1 directs an expeditious response and authorizes the use of emergency lights and siren. Operation of a vehicle during an emergency response must conform with the requirements of Section 21-106 of the Maryland Transportation Article.
 - a) Code 1 is usually prompted by one of the following requests for assistance: Deputy or police officer needs help and/or all instances in which the safety of an officer is directly threatened.
 - b) A situation where there are reasonable grounds to believe human life is in peril and where the police have the primary responsibility for acting.
 - c) A situation where an emergency response could prevent loss of life or serious injury.

2. Code 2

- a) A Code 2 response is one directing personnel to respond within the posted speed limit.
 - b) Emergency equipment may be used in certain instances to facilitate response and to expedite movement through traffic if the deputy considers it appropriate.
3. If the deputy assigned to handle a call has additional information about the incident which indicates that the code assignment is inappropriate, he/she should immediately advise via radio communications and request a change in coding. Deputies may use discretion when responding to incidents brought to their personal attention, however, the Duty Officer shall be advised of any code response.

D. Classified Calls for Service

1. Calls for service are classified to provide the most prompt response for service, consistent with the safety of the responding deputy and the public.
2. The duty officer is responsible for determining the proper response code.
3. It is not mandatory for a response code to be assigned
4. In the absence of a Code 1 directive, or extenuating circumstances, all calls will be governed by Code 2 procedures.