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I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The State of Minnesota finds that emergency vehicle operations are an integral part of law enforcement's commitment to public safety. This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to all emergency and non-emergency situations (MN Statute 626.8458, Subd. 1).

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of this department to appropriately respond to emergency and nonemergency calls for service or requests for assistance, whether these are dispatched or self-initiated.

III. RESPONSE TO CALLS:

A. Response to Emergency Calls

1. Officers responding to an emergency call shall proceed immediately as appropriate. Officers responding to an emergency call shall sound the siren and display at least one lighted red light to the front of the vehicle. Whenever practicable, during an emergency call response the officer should continuously operate emergency lighting equipment and sound the siren (MN Statutes 169.03 et seq and 169.17).
2. Responding with a red light, emergency lighting and/or siren does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle or a law enforcement vehicle of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and does not protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others. The use of any other warning equipment without emergency lights and siren does not provide an exemption under Minnesota law (MN Statute 169.17).
3. Officers should only respond with a red light, emergency lights and/or siren when so dispatched or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is appropriate. Officers not responding with a red light, emergency lights and/or siren shall observe all traffic laws.

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B. Lighting Exemption of Law Enforcement Vehicles:

1. An officer may operate a vehicle without headlights or taillights as otherwise required while performing law enforcement duties when the officer reasonably believes that operating the vehicle without lights is necessary to investigate a criminal violation or suspected criminal violation of state laws, rules or orders, or local laws, ordinances or regulations (MN Statute 169.541).
2. A vehicle must operate with headlights and taillights under the following standards adopted by Minnesota Peace officer Standards and Training Board (POST);
 - a) Under conditions of limited or reduced visibility (as defined in MN Statutes 84.87, 84.928, 169.48 to 169.65 and 86B.511).
 - b) On an interstate highway.
 - c) At speeds greater than what is reasonable and prudent under existing weather, road and traffic conditions.
 - d) Faster than the posted speed limit.
 - e) In situations where the officer is an active participant in the pursuit of a motor vehicle in violation of MN Statute 609.487.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICERS:

- A. Officers shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. During a response to an emergency call officers may (MN Statutes 169.03 and 169.17):
 1. Proceed cautiously past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down and utilizing a red light or siren as may be necessary for safe operation.
 2. Exceed any speed limits, provided this does not endanger life or property.
 3. Disregard regulations governing the direction of movement or turning in specified directions as authorized by law.
 4. Disregard regulations governing parking or standing when using a warning lamp.
- B. The decision to continue an emergency call response is at the discretion of the officer. If in the officer's judgment, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion does not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the officer may elect to respond to the call without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the officer should immediately notify the Communications Center. An officer shall also discontinue an emergency call response when directed by a supervisor or as otherwise appropriate.
- C. When an emergency call response is appropriate, officers are encouraged to give the location from which he/she is responding.
- D. When emergency vehicles are on the scene of an emergency and pose any hazard, or when the vehicle operators seek an exemption to park, stop or stand contrary to any

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law or ordinance pursuant to MN Statute 169.541, adequate warning lights shall be operated whenever practicable.

V. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Upon being notified that an emergency response has been initiated, the on-duty Supervisor shall verify the following:
 - 1. The proper response has been initiated.
 - 2. No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response.
 - 3. Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practicable.
- B. The on-duty supervisor shall, whenever practicable, monitor the response until it has been stabilized or terminated and assert control by directing units into or out of the response if necessary. If in the supervisor's judgment, the circumstances require additional units to be assigned an emergency response, the supervisor may do so.
- C. It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate an emergency response that, in his/her judgment, is inappropriate due to the circumstances.
- D. When making the decision to authorize an emergency call response, the on-duty Supervisor should consider the following:
 - 1. The type of call or crime involved.
 - 2. The necessity of a timely response.
 - 3. Traffic and roadway conditions.
 - 4. The location of the responding units.

VI. INITIATING EMERGENCY CALL RESPONSE:

- A. The nature of some incidents, due to being high profile, or exposing the city to liability, requires that on-scene patrol officers notify an on-duty supervisor of the incident. Once notified, the on-duty supervisor must determine whether to assume command of the incident or delegate command to an officer already at the scene. Incidents an on-duty supervisor must be notified of, or acknowledge, are:
 - 1. Arson;
 - 2. Armed robbery;
 - 3. Deaths;
 - 4. Civil disturbances;
 - 5. Felony assault;
 - 6. Felony level Incidents involving weapons;
 - 7. Injury accidents involving on-duty police vehicles;
 - 8. Kidnapping;

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9. Officer use of deadly force;
 10. On-duty officer injury;
 11. Vehicle pursuit;
 12. Labor disputes;
 13. Sexual assault;
 14. Unusual Occurrences;
 15. Subjects injured due to police action;
 16. Injuries on City property;
 17. Fatal traffic accidents;
 18. Accidents with life-threatening injury;
 19. Incidents involving significant property damage or loss;
 20. Threats to schools or staff;
 21. Significant incidents arising from extra-duty or non-duty employment; and
 22. Any police response to off-duty behavior, incident, or injury involving a Department employee and investigated by the Inver Grove Heights Police Department;
 23. Any calls that may have media attention;
 24. Calls that may be of concern to department administration.
- B. On-duty supervisors notified of such incidents must notify command staff as soon as practicable. Command Staff need to learn of incidents through police department channels, not when the media or City administration asks for information on the incident.

VII. REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

- A. Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel reasonably believe that there is an imminent threat to the safety of officers, or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen.
1. If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information:
 - a) The unit number.
 - b) The location.
 - c) The reason for the request and type of emergency.
 - d) The number of units required.
- B. The Number of Units Participating.

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1. Normally, only those units reasonably necessary should respond to an emergency as an emergency call response. The On-Duty Supervisor should monitor all emergency responses and reduce or enhance the response as warranted.
- C. Where a situation has stabilized, and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall promptly notify the Communications Center emergency response is no longer needed.

VIII. FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT:

- A. If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the officer must terminate the emergency call response and respond accordingly. The officer shall notify the on-duty supervisor or the Communications Center of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.

IX. TRAINING:

- A. The Department training coordinator shall ensure the frequency and content of emergency vehicle operations training meets or exceeds that required by law (MN Statute 626.8458).