

Investigator Response to Emergency Situations

316.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to emergency situations.

316.2 RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Investigators responding "Code-3" to an emergency situation shall continuously operate emergency lighting equipment, including at minimum a steady forward facing red light, and shall sound the siren as reasonably necessary pursuant to Vehicle Code § 21055. Responding with emergency light(s) and siren does not relieve the investigator of the duty to continue to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. The use of any other warning equipment without a red light and siren does not provide any exemption from the Vehicle Code.

Investigators not responding "Code-3" to emergency situations shall observe all traffic laws.

316.3 REQUESTS FOR A "CODE-3" RESPONSE

An investigator request for a "Code-3" backup should be made in those situations where the involved investigator reasonably believes there is an immediate threat to the safety of the investigator, or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. Where the situation has stabilized and an emergency response is no longer required, the requesting investigator shall immediately notify the District Attorney's communication center (DACOM) or the local law enforcement dispatch center being utilized during the situation that responding units can reduce from a "Code-3" response. When requesting a "Code-3" response, if circumstances permit, the requesting investigator should give the following information:

- The investigator's radio call number
- The location
- The reason for the request and type of emergency
- The number of units required

316.4 INITIATING CODE 3 RESPONSE

If an investigator believes a Code-3 response to an emergency situation is appropriate, the investigator shall immediately notify DACOM. As soon as it is possible to do so, DACOM shall notify a supervisor of the Code-3 response to an emergency situation.

Investigators assigned to a witness protection detail may activate the emergency lights and siren for a short duration to clear traffic or move through an area if it is reasonably necessary and to do otherwise would create an increased risk to the investigators and the protected witness(s). Under these circumstance, the investigators are not mandated to notify DACOM, unless they will be running Code-3 for an extended period of time.

316.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING INVESTIGATOR(S)

Investigators shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding Code-3 to an emergency situation. Investigators shall reduce speed at all street intersections to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle and be able to react to any oncoming hazards.

The decision to continue a Code-3 response is at the discretion of the investigator. If, in the investigator's judgment, the roadway conditions or traffic congestion does not permit such a response without unreasonable risk, the investigator may elect to respond to the situation without the use of red lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event,

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the investigator should immediately notify DACOM. An investigator shall also discontinue the Code-3 response when directed by a supervisor.

Upon receiving direction from a supervisor or determining a Code-3 response is appropriate, an investigator shall immediately notify DACOM of the location from which he/she is responding.

316.6 DACOM RESPONSIBILITIES

DACOM shall advise that a Code-3 response by other investigators/ law enforcement officers is required when an investigator requests emergency assistance or available information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death and an immediate law enforcement response is needed. In these situations DACOM shall:

- 1) Obtain the location of the emergency situation and if possible the nature of the emergency.
- 2) Request the response of the closest available investigators to the location of the emergency situation and confirm the location from which they are responding.
- 3) Notify, request, and coordinate the response of the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location where the emergency situation is occurring.
- 4) Immediately notify a supervisor and advise the supervisor of the situation.
- 5) Continue to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response and monitor the situation until it is stabilized or terminated.
- 6) Control all radio communications during the emergency and coordinate assistance under the direction of a supervisor.

316.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a Code-3 response has been initiated, the supervisor shall verify the following:

- (a) The proper response has been initiated
- (b) No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response
- (c) Affected outside jurisdictions are being notified as practical. The supervisor shall 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 a Code-3 response, the supervisor may do so.

It is the supervisor's responsibility to terminate a Code-3 response that, in his/her judgment is inappropriate due to the circumstances.

When making the decision to authorize a Code-3 response, the supervisor should consider the following:

- The type of call, request, or situation
- The necessity of a timely response
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding investigators

316.8 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

If the emergency equipment on the vehicle should fail to operate, the investigator must terminate the Code-3 response and respond accordingly. In all cases, the investigator shall notify a supervisor, or DACOM of the equipment failure so that another investigator may be assigned to the emergency response.