

## 1. Definitions

- A. Emergency - when the immediate presence of police is required to:
- a. Protect a person from death or serious injury
  - b. Provide emergency medical treatment to the victims of accidents, injuries or life threatening situations.
  - c. Assist another law enforcement officer(s) in a potentially dangerous situation or
  - d. Make the timely apprehension of those suspected of being involved in a criminal activity.
- B. Authorized Emergency Vehicle - For purpose of this policy and pursuant to M.S.S. 169.01, subd,5, and authorized emergency vehicle is a vehicle equipped and identified as such as is publicly owned for use by a police officer for law enforcement work. Emergency equipment, consistent with applicable state statutes, shall consist of at least one red light to the front and a siren.

## 2. Responding to An Emergency

- A. In responding to an emergency situation, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may disregard certain traffic regulations if either **the siren or red lights** are operating. The use of either the siren or red lights alone is permitted when responding as an authorized **emergency vehicle**. (The use of other emergency warning equipment, when available, is encouraged while operating in an emergency response mode).
- B. Pursuant to M.S.S. 169.03, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign, shall slow down as necessary for safety, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal after sounding the siren and displaying red lights, except law enforcement.
- C. Responding officers should attempt to coordinate response to emergencies so that no more than one vehicle is en route to the call in an emergency mode. Upon arrival at the scene, the first officer(s) may request additional assistance if needed or, the on-duty supervisor can direct additional units to proceed to the location in an emergency mode.
- D. In a multi-vehicle response to an emergency call, (i.e. other law enforcement units,

fire trucks or ambulances) the driver of one vehicle should not pass another unless there are sufficient lanes or, unless the vehicle to the front has become disabled.

- E. It is recognized that there are incidents which require an immediate response but the use of the siren could have a detrimental effect (i.e.: crimes in progress, hostage situations or medical emergencies)..
- F. Consistent with M.S.S. 169.03, subd, 5, no driver of any authorized emergency vehicle shall assume any special privilege except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

3. Officer Responsibility

- A. The judicial system has often determined that even if an officer has been responding to an emergency situation, the officer is not relieved of his/her responsibility of operating the emergency vehicle with due regard for the safety of persons using the roadways. In effect, police officers when responding to emergencies, while allowed to violate certain traffic laws, must do so in a manner which will not jeopardize the safety of others.