

## Officer Response to Calls

### 307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides for the safe and appropriate response to emergency and non-emergency situations whether dispatched or self-initiated.

### 307.2 RESPONSE TO CALLS

Officers dispatched "Code-3" shall consider the call an emergency response and proceed immediately. Officers responding Code-3 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 officer 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.

Officers should only respond Code-3 when so dispatched or when circumstances reasonably indicate an emergency response is required. Officers not authorized to respond Code-3 shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

Non-sworn personnel shall not respond to calls for service or drive Department vehicles with the emergency lights or sirens activated. Upon arriving at the scene of an emergency call, non-sworn personnel may use the vehicle's overhead emergency lights to assist with traffic control or other vehicular movement within the area.

#### 307.2.1 ESCORTS

Pursuant to Vehicle Code §21057, marked police vehicles sounding a siren and using emergency lights (Code-3) as an escort vehicle is prohibited with the following exceptions:

- (a) Escorting for the purpose of preserving life.
- (b) Expediting the movement of supplies or personnel during a national, state, or local emergency.

When escorting for the purpose of preserving life, officers will consider the nature of the emergency, the dangers and hazards involved, and the emotional condition of the person to be escorted before deciding to escort "Code-3".

Department members will not provide escorts for private vehicle processions except as follows:

- (a) Motor vehicle processions for heads of state, federal, or state government officials and under other situations deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police.
- (b) Official government sponsored or sanctioned functions or events.
- (c) Emergency situations when escorts are furnished to assist in preserving life, protecting public safety, or when expediting movements of supplies or personnel for any federal, state, or local agency during a national, state, or local emergency. (Redding Municipal Code 9.12.)

# Redding Police Department

## RPD Policy Manual

### *Officer Response to Calls*

---

- (d) Parades permitted by the Redding Municipal Code Chapter 11.44.

Private funeral procession escorts will not be provided by Department members unless authorized and directed by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

Private funeral procession permits will be issued by the Redding Police Department when applicants have met all the necessary requirements. Generally, the permit allows limited powers in directing traffic at intersections to allow the funeral procession to proceed as an unbroken chain. (Redding Municipal Code Chapter 11.48.)

#### **307.3 REQUESTING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Requests for emergency assistance should be limited to those situations where the involved personnel reasonably believe that there is an immediate threat to the safety of officers, or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. In any event, where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall immediately notify SHASCOM.

If circumstances permit, the requesting officer should give the following information.

- The location
- The reason for the request and type of emergency
- The number of units required

#### **307.4 INITIATING CODE 3 RESPONSE**

Taking the tactics of an incident into account, officers responding to an emergency situation in an emergency response mode (Code-3) should advise SHASCOM of their Code-3 response, their location, and their direction of travel. SHASCOM shall ensure the Field Operations supervisor is notified. The use of Channel 2 is appropriate to minimize radio traffic on the primary channel.

#### **307.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICERS**

Officers shall exercise sound judgment and care with due regard for life and property when responding to an emergency call. Officers shall reduce speed at all street intersections to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle.

The decision to continue a Code-3 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 notify SHASCOM. The use of Channel 2 is appropriate to minimize radio traffic on the primary channel. An officer shall also discontinue the Code-3 response when directed by a supervisor.

#### **307.6 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

# Redding Police Department

## RPD Policy Manual

### *Officer Response to Calls*

---

- (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 field 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 field supervisor should consider the following:

- The type of call
- The necessity of a timely response
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding units

#### **307.7 FAILURE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

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