



## 2-6 USE OF EMERGENCY WARNING EQUIPMENT

**Related Policies:** None

### 2-6-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of emergency vehicle warning equipment.

### 2-6-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to adhere to statutory restrictions on the use of emergency warning equipment. Such equipment is employed only under authorized conditions and circumstances, in ways that will minimize the risk of crashes or injuries to employees or the public.

### 2-6-3 Definitions

#### A. Authorized Emergency Warning Equipment

1. That equipment on authorized emergency vehicles that emits audible or visual signals in order to warn others that law enforcement services are in the process of being delivered. These devices include a siren, flashing or rotating red and blue lights, or amber lights.

#### B. Emergency Vehicle

1. An authorized law enforcement vehicle displaying a government license plate, equipped with emergency lights, siren, and other emergency warning devices required by New Mexico State Statute and used for emergency response situations.

#### C. Response Code 1

1. Response in compliance with all traffic regulations without the use of emergency equipment. Code 1 calls are non-emergency in nature.

#### D. Response Code 3

1. Response with full emergency equipment in operation. Code 3 calls are life threatening in nature or meet any other criteria for an emergency response.



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-6

Effective: 03/06/19 Review: 03/06/20 Replaces: 12/29/16

**2-6-4 Procedures**

**6** A. Authority for Code Response

1. When responding to an emergency call, or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected law violator, officers are authorized to exercise the right-of-way privilege, as provided for by law in § 66-7-6 NMSA 1978 if the officer is driving an authorized emergency vehicle and properly using authorized emergency equipment.
2. This section does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor does it protect the driver from the consequences of their reckless disregard for the safety of others.

**6** B. Code 3 Response

1. When human life is known to be in danger, the primary and secondary units dispatched may respond Code 3 with full emergency equipment activated. A supervisor may authorize a Code 3 response to an in-progress felony call for service to prevent the likelihood of an offender's escape and/or to protect life and property.
2. Officers may downgrade to a Code 1 response when any of the following conditions are known:
  - a. Human life is no longer in immediate danger.
  - b. Information indicates a violent felony is no longer occurring.
  - c. The scene is secure.
3. An officer may request additional units respond Code 3.
4. An officer may disengage the siren when transmitting on the radio or upon arrival to the area of an in-progress call for service, when it is safe to do so.

**6** C. Code 1 Response

1. Code 1 response will be used for all other calls for service.

**N/A** D. Supervisor

1. Supervisors should monitor the number of units responding Code 3.
2. The supervisor may direct a code response, other than as provided for above, if the circumstances dictate.