



**Stockton Unified School District Department of  
Public Safety  
Procedure**

**Richard M. Barries, Interim Police Chief  
Officer Response to Calls  
February 2021**

## **Officer Response to Calls**

### **Purpose & Scope**

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

### **Response to Calls**

Members of the Stockton Unified School District Police Department will operate emergency vehicles according to state law as stated in the California Vehicle Code.

Officers shall keep the vehicle under control at all times, wear their seatbelts at all times unless circumstances dictate otherwise, and drive at a speed that is safe considering the totality of the circumstances.

When responding Code 1 to any call, officers shall respond by obeying all laws, and using no emergency equipment. Code 1 includes normal vehicle operation and routine calls for service where there is no threat to life or property.

When responding Code 2 to any call, officers shall respond without delay, obeying all laws, and using no emergency equipment. This includes urgent calls for service where there is no threat to life or property and no civil disturbance.

Code 3 includes emergency response includes responding without delay, using a mandatory red light and sounding of a siren at all times, unless sound police practices dictate otherwise. Rules of the road may be violated as long as caution is exercised and due regard is given to the safety of all persons using the highway.

### **Officer Responsibilities**

Officers will consider public and officer safety when deciding to turn off the siren. Totality of the circumstances shall be considered when responding Code 3 and/or reducing to Code 2.



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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.

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.

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 Dispatch/Records Center.

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

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

Normally, only one unit should respond to an emergency call Code-3 unless the Shift Supervisor or the field supervisor authorizes an additional unit(s).

If an officer believes a Code-3 response to any call is appropriate, the officer shall immediately notify Dispatch/Records Center. Generally, only one unit should respond Code-3 to any situation.

Should another officer believe a Code-3 response is appropriate, Dispatch/Records Center shall be notified and the Shift Supervisor or field supervisor will make a determination as to whether one or more officers driving Code-3 is appropriate.



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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 immediately notify Dispatch/Records Center. An officer shall also discontinue the Code-3 response when directed by a supervisor.

Upon receiving authorization or determining a Code-3 response is appropriate, an officer shall immediately give the location from which he/she is responding.

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 Shift Supervisor, field supervisor, or Dispatch/Records Center of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response

### **Supervisor Responsibilities**

When making the decision to authorize a Code-3 response, the Shift Supervisor or 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

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

- The proper response has been initiated
- No more than those units reasonably necessary under the circumstances are involved in the response
- 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.



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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.