

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT		
EMERGENCY, URGENT, AND ROUTINE CALL RESPONSE		
POLICY AND PROCEDURE 4.2.1.17		
Effective Date : 09/22/08	Accreditation Standards: CALEA 41.2.1 CFA	Review Date: 09/01/2014

CONTENTS:

1. Call Response
2. Vehicle Operation – Emergency Response

Purpose: To establish guidelines for officers in determining the level of response to various incident types or situations.

Scope: This policy applies to all members.

Review Responsibility: Patrol Operations Major and Communications Manager

Policy: This department utilizes a system of classifying calls for service that are routine or for an emergency.

PROCEDURE:

1. CALL RESPONSE:

- a. All dispatched calls for service shall be given a priority designation as follows:
 - i. The highest level of priority is “P”.
 - ii. Priority then ascends numerically from 1-9, with 1 having greater priority than 9.
- b. It is the responsibility of the officer to know the departmental response for each incident type. Every incident type entered into CAD (computer aided dispatch) will have an associated priority displayed. Factors, such as time of day, traffic, weather; officer's understanding of a particular incident and other articulated information will dictate the officer(s) response to the complaint (call).
 - i. Priority P: The incident is believed to be an immediate life-threatening situation.
 1. A response to an in progress, possibly life-threatening, situation.
 - a. Officers will respond as quickly and safely as possible with emergency lights and siren activated to the assigned location. Utilization of the emergency equipment (lights/siren) not only serves as a warning to the motoring public it also serves to inform the victim(s) and/or involved parties that precipitated the request for service that law enforcement assistance is en route to their location.
 - b. Officer proceeding through intersections or intersections where they would not normally have the right of way, will slow to a safe speed or stop if necessary to allow the officer to determine if opposing traffic will recognize and yield to the emergency vehicle.
 - c. These responses include, but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Injury traffic accidents
 - ii. Crimes of violence in progress such as sexual battery, homicide, assault with a weapon, home invasions, etc.).
 - iii. Officers requesting urgent assistance.

- ii. Priority 1: The incident requires an immediate dispatch and response and would not be life-threatening, however, there is potential for physical harm, the incident is in progress or the subject is still on the scene or in sight.
 - 1. Response by personnel is dictated by the information given to the responding officers, mitigated by weather, time of day and traffic conditions. Responding personnel do have the discretion to operate their vehicles in an emergency mode consistent with applicable statutes.
- iii. Priority 2-8: Activities which receive these priority designations are either delayed incident(s) which do not require an immediate patrol response or other activities that officers may be assigned to (such as, but not limited to; radar operations, traffic stops, foot patrols, extra duty details, etc.) and listed with calls for service with the lower numerical priority assignment (2) progressing to an stationary extra duty detail post (8).
- iv. Priority 9; Calls that are handled by communications, i.e. private property impounds, repossessions, or 911 transfers to another agency.
 - 1. Responses of a non-emergency nature to a request for service, officers shall observe and obey all driving regulations and rules of the road as required by law, and departmental policy and procedures. Officers shall also obey all parking laws upon arrival.

2. VEHICLE OPERATION-EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

- a. Although required to stay within the guidelines of department policy and procedure, officers shall stay within the statutory limits of FSS 3 16.126 (3), (5):
 - i. Any authorized emergency vehicle, when en route to meet an existing emergency, shall warn all other vehicular traffic along the emergency route by an audible signal, siren, exhaust whistle, or other adequate device, or by a visible signal by the use of displayed blue or red lights. While en route to such an emergency, the emergency vehicle shall otherwise proceed in a manner consistent with the law regulating vehicular traffic upon the highways of this state.
 - ii. This section shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the highway.

INDEX AS:

- EMERGENCY, URGENT, AND
ROUTINE CALL RESPONSE

RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

- PATROL OPERATIONS
- COMMUNICATIONS

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APPROVED:



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