Eugene Police Department

Officer Response to Calls

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

416.2 RESPONSE TO CALLS
Officers shall proceed immediately to calls that are of an emergency nature. A Code 3 response should be considered when available information reasonably indicates that a person is threatened with injury or death, or serious property damage is imminent and a more immediate law enforcement response is needed to mitigate injury, property loss, or to apprehend the suspect(s).

Officers responding Code 3 shall operate emergency lights and siren as is reasonably necessary pursuant to ORS 820.300 and ORS 820.320. Officers shall only use the wail and yelp function of the siren as an emergency sound. The hi-lo function of the siren is not considered an emergency sound pursuant to OAR 735-110-0000(8) and OAR
735-110-0010(1-3).

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.

ORS 820.320(2) allows officers to omit the use of emergency lights and siren if it reasonably appears that the use of either or both would prevent or hamper the apprehension or detection of a violator. Except as stated in the previous sentence, officers who fail to use appropriate warning equipment are not exempt from following the rules of the road (ORS 820.300).

Officers responding to non-emergency calls shall observe all traffic laws and proceed without the use of emergency lights and siren.

416.3 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, the suspect is actively resisting or eluding capture; or the resistance or flight is imminent; or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to a citizen. In any event, where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is no longer required, the requesting officer shall immediately notify dispatch. If circumstances permit, the officer requesting emergency response should give the following information via his or her police radio:
(a) The unit number.
(b) The location.

(c) The reason for the request and type of emergency.
(d) The number of units required.

416.3.1 NUMBER OF UNITS ASSIGNED
Normally, two units will respond to an emergency call Code 3 request; however, additional units may respond based upon the specifics and circumstances of the request. A Sergeant or Watch Commander may request or deny additional unit(s) in the response.

416.4 INITIATING CODE 3 RESPONSE
If an officer believes a Code 3 response to any call is appropriate, the officer should immediately broadcast their decision over the radio. The Watch Commander or Sergeant will make a determination as to whether one or more officers responding Code 3 is appropriate.

416.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICER(S)
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 as may be necessary for safe operation.

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 emergency lights and siren at the legal speed limit. In such an event, the officer should immediately notify their supervisor over the radio. An officer shall also discontinue the Code 3 response when directed by a supervisor.

416.6 COMMUNICATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES
A dispatcher shall assign a Code 3 response when an officer requests emergency assistance, in all other circumstances, the dispatcher shall obtain authorization from the Watch Commander or Sergeant prior to assigning units Code 3. The dispatcher shall:
(a) Attempt to assign the closest available unit to the location requiring assistance.
(b) Immediately notify the Watch Commander.
(c) Confirm the location from which the unit is responding.
(d) Notify and coordinate allied emergency services (e.g., fire and ambulance).
(e) Continue to obtain and broadcast information as necessary concerning the response and monitor the situation until it is stabilized or terminated.
(f) Control all radio communications during the emergency and coordinate assistance under the direction of the Watch Commander or field supervisor.

416.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES
Upon being notified that a Code 3 response has been initiated, the Watch Commander or Sergeant shall verify the following:
(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 Watch Commander or the field supervisor should consider the following:

(a) The type of call.
(b) The necessity of a timely response.
(c) Traffic and roadway conditions.
(d) The location of the responding units.

416.8 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 their supervisor via the radio of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.