

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<i>Effective Date</i> May 1, 1998	<i>Number</i> GO88-4.15
<i>Subject</i> Emergency Vehicle Driving		
<i>Reference</i> CALEA Standard – 41.2.1		<i>Revised</i> March 22, 2022 February 27, 2024
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel	<i>Re-evaluation Date</i> March 2024 February 2026	<i>No. Pages</i> 2

I. **Policy**

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department that employees shall exercise due regard for their safety and others when operating police vehicles in emergency situations.

II. **Response Types**

The seriousness of the call shall dictate whether the response shall be conducted as non-emergency or emergency. Supervisors shall monitor Officers' responses and control the number of units responding to emergencies. Supervisors shall upgrade or downgrade emergency responses by Officers as they deem necessary.

A. Non-emergency

Officers should proceed immediately to the location of the call, adhere to traffic laws, and be courteous to other users of the road. Emergency lights and siren shall not be used on non-emergency calls.

B. Emergency

Emergencies include situations in which life is in danger, physical harm is occurring or is imminent, or any other situation in which public safety is potentially in jeopardy. No set of guidelines can possibly define every emergency an Officer may encounter, and, for that reason, deciding whether a situation is an emergency must be left to each Officer based on the facts and circumstances known to the Officer or relayed through other means, such as another Officer, a dispatcher, or a Supervisor.

1. Officers shall respond immediately to the location of the call while operating the vehicle with due regard for the safety of all persons.
2. Emergency lights and siren shall be used on emergency calls, except the Officer should use discretion and discontinue use before arrival at some calls if continued use might endanger another person.

3. Officers may exceed the speed limit but shall exercise good judgment and take into consideration traffic and road conditions.
4. Officers may proceed past a stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing or stopping the vehicle as necessary for safe operation.
5. Officers may fluctuate the sound of the siren so it may be heard better.
6. Officers should not drive up immediately behind another vehicle and sound the siren.
7. Officers should not pass on the right side of a vehicle, except when absolutely necessary.
8. Officers should remain mindful of road, weather, and traffic conditions.

This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.

BY ORDER OF

CHIEF OF POLICE

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The data contained in this manual is confidential for internal department use only and shall not be divulged outside the department without the written approval of the Chief of Police.