
Officer Response to Calls

316.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

316.2 RESPONSE TO CALLS

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.

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. The use of any other warning equipment without a red light and siren does not provide any exemption from the Vehicle Code.

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.

316.2.1 EMERGENCY CALLS

An emergency that may warrant Code-3 response includes incidents that pose immediate danger to the public, life-threatening situations, responding to another officer's request for immediate assistance or other incident requiring quick police response when the hazards posed by a delay outweigh the hazards of an emergency Code-3 response.

316.3 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, or assistance is needed to prevent imminent serious harm to members of the public. In any event, where a situation has stabilized and emergency response is not required, the requesting officer shall immediately notify Communications Section.

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

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

Whenever an on-duty employee of the Department determines his/her safety is in serious jeopardy and he/she does not know how many officers are necessary to provide for his/her safety, he/she may call for emergency assistance.

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- This type of call for assistance shall be made by using the radio code 1199 which shall be pronounced "Eleven Ninety-Nine."
- All available Union City police officers will respond to the aid of the employee requesting the assistance in an emergency (Code- 3) status.
- Officers responding to a radio code of 1199 need not advise Dispatch that they are responding in an emergency (Code- 3) status.
- Once the emergency prompting the call for assistance has ceased to exist, it shall be the responsibility of either the employee originally requesting the assistance or, in the event he/she is incapacitated, the senior officer at the scene to transmit a Code- 4 (no further assistance necessary).
- Once the emergency ceases to exist and the situation is under control, all officers assigned to the call shall return to their respective assignments.

Whenever an on-duty employee of the Department determines his/her safety is in serious jeopardy and he/she believes that the number of officers assigned to the sector is sufficient to provide for his/her safety, he/she may call for emergency assistance.

- This type call for assistance shall be made by using the radio code "Code-99" which shall be pronounced "Code Ninety-Nine". All Union City police officers working patrol or specialty units in the field, and in the sector where the emergency exists, shall respond to the aid of the employee requesting the assistance in an emergency (Code-3) status.
- Officers responding to a radio code of Code-99 need not advise Dispatch that they are responding in an emergency (Code- 3) status.
- In the event the dispatcher/clerk or an officer hears only a portion of the "Code 99" and that portion makes him/her uncertain as to whether the transmission is a "Code 99" or 1199, he/she shall act as though the transmission was 1199 until the type of request for assistance is clarified.

Whenever an on-duty employee of the Department advises they are in "Foot Pursuit" of an individual, it shall be considered an emergency request for assistance. All Union City police officers working patrol or specialty units in the field, and in the sector where the emergency exists, shall respond to the aid of the employee requesting the assistance in an emergency (Code- 3) status (pursuant to the Foot Pursuit Policy.)

316.3.1 NUMBER OF UNITS ASSIGNED

The Watch Commander or the field supervisor shall monitor emergency Code-3 requests for assistance, and ensure that an appropriate number of units are assigned.

316.4 INITIATING CODE 3 RESPONSE

If an officer believes a Code-3 response to any call is needed, the officer shall notify the Communications Section of their Code-3 response as soon as appropriate. The Watch Commander or field supervisor shall monitor the need for additional units and make a determination as to the assignment of additional Code-3 units.

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316.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONDING OFFICERS

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 to such a degree that they shall have complete control of the vehicle.

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 Communications Section. 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.

316.6 COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

A dispatcher will assign a Code-3 response when an officer requests emergency assistance or available information reasonably indicates that the public is threatened with serious injury or death and immediate police response is needed. In all other circumstances, the dispatcher will obtain authorization from the Watch Commander or a field supervisor prior to assigning units Code-3. The dispatcher should:

- (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.
- (g) Document pertinent radio traffic into the Computer Aided Dispatch System.

316.7 SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon being notified that a Code-3 response has been initiated, the Watch Commander or the field supervisor 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,

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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:

- The type of call
- The necessity of a timely response
- Traffic and roadway conditions
- The location of the responding units

316.8 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 the Watch Commander, field supervisor, or Communications Section of the equipment failure so that another unit may be assigned to the emergency response.

316.9 REVISIONS

Revised: July 6, 2015

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