



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 812

Table with 3 columns: Subject (Emergency Operation of Department Vehicles), Date Issued (05-09-03), Effective Date (01-20-11), Revision Number (3)

POLICY:

The operator of an emergency vehicle shall ensure that he or she has due regard for the safety of all occupants of his or her vehicle as well as the safety of pedestrians and occupants of other vehicles.

PROCEDURE:

When responding to an emergency call or actively involved in a pursuit, the following requirements must be complied with:

MEMBER:

- 1. Use emergency lights and siren simultaneously and continually.
2. At all times, comply with the requirements of Wisconsin State Statute 346.03 relative to the giving of audible and visual signals (sub. 2 & 3).
a. The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may:
1) Exceed the speed limit.
2) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safe operation.
3) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
b. The emergency vehicle operator may exceed the speed limit without giving audible and visual signals under the following circumstances (sub. 4):
1) While obtaining evidence of a speed violation
2) When responding to a call which he/she reasonably believes involves a felony in progress and reasonably believes any of the following:
a) Knowledge of his/her presence may endanger the safety of the victim or other person.
b) Knowledge of his/her presence may cause the suspected violator to evade apprehension.
c) Knowledge of his/her presence may cause the suspected violator to destroy evidence of a suspected felony or may otherwise result in the loss of evidence of a suspected felony.
d) Knowledge of his/her presence may cause the suspected violator to cease the commission of a suspected felony before he/she obtains sufficient evidence to establish grounds for arrest.
3. While operating a Department vehicle under emergency conditions, members will advise Communications of such operation when acknowledging the call.
4. Emergency operation can be terminated by:
a. Any Supervisor or Command Officer
b. Communications at the direction of the On-Duty Shift Commander or Supervisor.
c. The operator of the emergency vehicle.
5. Keep in mind that the exemptions granted above do not relieve Department members from the duty to drive with due regard (be aware and look out for the safety of other drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians etc.) under the circumstances for the safety of all persons, taking into consideration:
a. The type, actions and speed of the vehicle being pursued;
b. The geographic area of pursuit and its population density;
c. The time of day and day of week;
d. The vehicular and pedestrian traffic present in area;
e. The road and weather conditions;
f. The officer's familiarity with the area of pursuit.

6. Although the conditions are identified individually, each can have an impact on another; therefore, the totality of the circumstances should be considered. Their value for decision-making purposes is enhanced when considered in combination.

**RELATED
PROCEDURES:**

[603 – Pursuit Operation](#)
[810 – Use of Safety Belts in Department Vehicles](#)
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**RELATED
STATUTE:**

Wisconsin State Statute 346.03 – Applicability of Rules of the Road to Authorized Emergency Vehicles.