

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter V, Section 100, Order 113 – Patrol Operations
September 20, 2016

5 / 113.05 POLICY

Sworn members of the Department will adhere to the following procedures, conditions, circumstances, guidelines, and conditions regarding emergency responses and the use of lights and/or siren.

5 / 113.10 PURPOSE

To set guidelines and procedures for routine and emergency patrol responses.

5 / 113.15 DEFINITIONS

Priority Response allows the officer to utilize emergency equipment in continuous mode to expedite response to an incident where there is a potential for loss of life or serious injury.

Emergency Vehicle Police cruiser which is properly equipped with an audible warning device in excess of standard horn and flashing red, blue, or white lights displayed to the front of the vehicle and which has been registered with the Motor Vehicle Administration as an Emergency Vehicle.

Emergency Equipment Flashing red, blue, or white lights, and, when in motion, audible warning device.

5 / 114.20 PROCEDURES

A. ROUTINE RESPONSE

1. Whenever an officer receives a call that is routine in nature and is not directed to respond in a priority manner, they will obey all traffic laws when responding to the scene.
 - a. The use of emergency equipment during routine response is prohibited.
2. All residential and commercial alarm calls within the City of Laurel will have two cars assigned for service.
 - a. Unless the alarm is received as a “panic” alarm or reported as a Breaking and Entering, Robbery, or Hold-Up in progress, the response will be routine

B. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. General
 - a. Sworn members of the Department will utilize the Emergency Equipment in compliance with all laws as defined in the Maryland Vehicle Law.
 - b. Sworn members operating a police vehicle may utilize the emergency lights to illuminate their presence on any roadway while performing their official duties, i.e., traffic stops, assisting disabled motorists, traffic direction, protection of accident or crime scenes, etc.
 - c. Sworn members although operating vehicles with Emergency Equipment and in compliance with all laws and guidelines are reminded that they are responsible to exercise due caution and utilize every option available to ensure their safety and the safety of the public.

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2. Protocols

- a. Sworn members will respond to incidents based on the type of response dictated by the CAD System.
 - 1) A communications specialist or supervisor may override the response priority recommended by CAD based on information known to them.
 - 2) Communication dispatchers will assign primary units based on CAD recommendations and available units.
- b. The following is a list of major calls that commonly require priority responses. This list is not all-inclusive and by no means infers that a dispatcher or supervisor cannot downgrade the response to routine on the basis of other information.
 - 1) Life threatening calls.
 - 2) In Progress or Major Incidents - Just occurred or suspect at or near scene.
 - 3) Signal 13
 - 4) Robbery / Hold Up
 - 5) Accident with Injury or Fatal
 - 6) Hit and Run with Injury
 - 7) Unknown Trouble
 - 8) Homicide
 - 9) Armed Subject(s)
 - 10) Fight with weapons
 - 11) Sex Offenses - In progress or just occurred
 - 12) Suicide
 - 13) Violent Domestic
 - 14) Burglary in progress

5 / 113.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

Maryland Code, Transportation, Title 21. Vehicle Laws, Rules of the Road, Section 21-106, Emergency Vehicle
CALEA Standards 41.2.1, 81.2.5

5 / 113.30 ANNEX

General Order 5/114 Routine Response