



Policy Name:	EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS (EVO)		
Policy #:	OP 4.36.1	Last Updated:	2024-03-13
Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
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RELATED POLICIES

OP 4.36.2 *Police Pursuits*

OP 4.36.3 *Stopping Suspect Vehicles*

OP 4.36.5 *Police Involved Collisions*

OP 2.4 *IIO Notification*

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To provide Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members with direction and limitations on the operation of emergency vehicles.
- 1.2. To ensure Members comply with the British Columbia (BC) *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA), *BC Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation* (EVDR), and *BC Provincial Policing Standards* in the operation of emergency vehicles.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Members.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. Members must complete Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVO) training, as required by the Director of Police Services, and only Members who have done so may exercise the exemptions applicable to driving emergency vehicles granted in s. 122 (1) MVA.

3.2. Members are required to explain the reasons and provide justification for their driving decisions and actions in exercising exemptions for emergency vehicle driving granted by s. 122(1) MVA and the EVDR.

3.3. For the purposes of this policy, “emergency equipment” means emergency lights and siren.

3.4. A “Code 3” response means an urgent response in an emergency vehicle while operating emergency equipment. Members shall only exercise the privileges granted by s. 122 (1) MVA and respond without the use of full emergency equipment when an operational need requires such a response, and they comply with s. 4(2) EVDR.

3.5. A Member who operates emergency equipment, or emergency lights only or emergency siren only, is not considered to be responding Code 3 if the Member is:

- i. conducting a traffic stop (unless the person fails to stop on demand of the Member);
- ii. conducting a police escort; and
- iii. operating emergency equipment, but is not responding to an incident that requires an urgent response or the exercise of the privileges granted in s.122(1) MVA (e.g., traffic control, road closures, etc.).

4. PROCEDURE

Authority

4.1. In accordance with the provisions of the EVDR, Members may respond Code 3 and exercise the privileges granted in s.122(1) MVA if:

- i. the Member has reasonable grounds to believe that the risk of harm to the public from the exercise of those privileges is less than the risk of harm to the public should those privileges not be exercised; and
- ii. operates emergency equipment.

4.2. The privileges granted under s. 122(1) MVA allow a Member operating an emergency vehicle to:

- i. exceed the speed limit;
- ii. proceed past a red traffic control signal or stop sign without stopping;
- iii. disregard rules and traffic control devices governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions; and
- iv. stop or stand.

Due Regard for Safety

4.3. In considering whether there are reasonable grounds to respond Code 3, Members must consider all pertinent factors, including the following, if relevant:

- i. the nature and circumstances of the suspected offence or incident;
- ii. the risk of harm posed by the manner in which the emergency vehicle is being or is likely to be operated;
- iii. the risk of harm posed by the distance, speed or length of time required or likely to be required to exercise the privileges;
- iv. the nature, condition and use of the highway;
- v. the volume and nature of pedestrian or vehicular traffic that is, or might reasonably be expected to be, in the area;
- vi. the degree of risk of harm to the public in consideration of the seriousness, the nature, and the circumstances of the suspected offence or incident; and
- vii. the appropriate speed considering the circumstances.

Radio Procedure

4.4. A Code 3 response to an incident is permitted only in the following situations:

- i. The OCC Dispatcher broadcasts a call and a Member recognizes that the incident is an emergency;
- ii. a Member encounters an emergency situation requiring a Code 3 response and advises the OCC Dispatcher of the circumstances; or
- iii. a Supervisor recognizes that an emergency exists and authorizes a Member or Members to respond Code 3.

4.5. Members responding Code 3 to an emergency situation shall:

- i. immediately notify the OCC Dispatcher that they are responding Code 3 and operate both emergency lights and siren;
- ii. only exercise the privileges found in s.122(1) MVA without operating emergency lights and siren or by operating emergency lights alone if they believe that an offence has been, is being, or is about to be committed and that the risk of harm to the public with emergency equipment activated outweighs the potential risk of harm to the public entailed in not activating them; and
- iii. comply with the duties and requirements as stipulated in s. 122(1) MVA, and the EVDR.

Limitations

4.6. If a Member is exercising the privileges granted in s. 122(1) MVA and operating an emergency vehicle without emergency equipment activated, the Member must stop at a red light and may then disregard the red light and proceed through the intersection if the Member has reasonable grounds to believe it is safe to do so without operating relevant emergency equipment.

4.7. A Member may not exercise the privileges granted in s. 122(1) MVA without emergency equipment activated if the Member is passing through a School Zone or a Playground Zone when speed restrictions are in effect.

4.8. Police vehicles not equipped with emergency equipment must not be used in a Code 3 response.

Risk Assessment

4.9. Members must consider that the greater the distance, speed or length of time required or likely to be required in exercising the privileges granted by section 122(1) MVA the greater the risk to the safety of Members of the public.

4.10. Members must consider factors which will increase the risk of harm to the public when exercising the privileges granted under s. 122(1) MVA include:

- i. attempting to close the distance between a Member's vehicle and another vehicle;
- ii. if there is poor visibility;
- iii. if there is pedestrian or other vehicular traffic on the highway; and
- iv. if the Member must disregard a yield sign or pass through a crosswalk or uncontrolled intersection.

4.11. When responding Code 3 and entering an intersection against a traffic control device, Members must exercise extreme caution and slow their vehicles to a speed at which they can observe and react safely to all potential hazards. During periods of heavy vehicular or pedestrian traffic, this may require Members to come to a complete stop.

4.12. Where a Field Unit(s) broadcasts it is responding Code 3, or has been instructed to respond Code 3, the unit may continue to do so until it is determined that a Code 3 response is no longer necessary or the Code 3 response is cancelled by a Supervisor or the Duty Officer.

4.13. Where a Member has initiated "10-33" or requested Code 3 cover, the responding unit(s) may continue to do so until it is determined that a Code 3 response is no longer necessary or the Code 3 response is cancelled by an on-scene Supervisor or another Member already on scene.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“10-33” means member in trouble requiring immediate assistance.

“Code 3” means an urgent response in an emergency vehicle while operating emergency equipment (emergency lights and siren). Members shall only exercise the privileges granted by section 122(1) of the *Motor Vehicle Act* and respond without the use of full emergency equipment when an operational need requires such a response, and they comply with section 4(2) of the *Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation*.

“EVO” means emergency vehicle operation.

“Field Unit” means a Frontline Policing Unit or a Patrol Unit.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

BC Provincial Policing Standards - Emergency Vehicle Operations, Section 3.2.4

Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation, B.C. Regulation 133/98

Motor Vehicle Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 318

Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, B.C. Regulation 26/58