

Operating Guideline # 506

Response Codes

October 9, 2019



**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines that promote the safe operation of department emergency vehicles.

**GUIDELINE:**

1. The following response codes shall be utilized when personal are operating any departmental apparatus:

CODE 3: This response mode is authorised only in conjunction with emergency incidents which are life threatening, or of unknown magnitude, or where the safety of personnel and apparatus requires it.

- a. Running lights on
- b. All emergency response lights on
- c. Siren in operation to clear traffic ahead, or when upon approaching an intersection or the incident scene
- d. All speed limits, (including advisory speed limits), traffic signals and stop signs will be obeyed;

CODE 1:

This mode is used for non-emergency responses (CO alarm – no symptoms, hydro lines down – no public hazard, Assist OPP – depending on nature of information provided) and refuelling, repairs, community service etc. whenever department vehicles are being driven in a non-emergency mode.

- a. Running lights on
- b. All speed limits (including advisory speed limits), traffic signals and stop signs will be obeyed

NOTE: All apparatus responding after the first responding apparatus on an Alarm Activation type incidents will downgrade their response to a Code 1 response from a Code 3 response automatically if the first arriving unit reports “nothing showing” and there has been no indication from the premise of an emergency.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.