
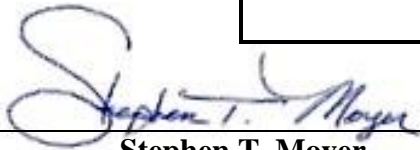


Executive Directive



Title: Authorized Operation of Emergency Vehicles	Executive Directive Number: OPS.110.0016 – Revised Confidential
Related MD Statute/Regulations: Transportation Article, §§ 22-218(c)(2) and (7), §§19-101–103, and § 11-118, Annotated Code of Maryland; Public Safety Article, §§ 3-101(e), Annotated Code of Maryland	Supersedes: DCD.110-16 dated August 1, 2007 and K9D.110-07, dated August 27, 2017
Related ACA and MCCS Standards: 4-4089, 4-4197, 4-4200, and 4-4208	Responsible Authority:  Commissioner
Related Directives: ADM.020.0008, ADM.020.0009, and IIU.110.0004/A01.I.07.008.002	Effective Date: 1/12/2018 Number of Pages: 4



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Secretary



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Deputy Secretary for Operations

.01 Purpose.

To establish policy and procedures for the operation of vehicles designated as emergency vehicles and to ensure installation of emergency equipment in accordance with State law.

.02 Scope.

Any Department employee operating a vehicle designated for emergency use.

.03 Policy.

It is the policy of the Department that vehicles designated as emergency vehicles may be furnished with approved emergency equipment and are only operated by approved employees in accordance with the law.

.04 Definitions.

A. In this directive, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) “Approved Employee” means an employee who has successfully completed emergency vehicle operator training provided by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions.
- (2) Emergency Equipment.

- (a) “Emergency Equipment” for an approved employee operating an emergency vehicle in the employee’s official capacity as a law enforcement officer has the meaning stated in Transportation Article, § 22-218(c)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (b) “Emergency Equipment” for an approved employee operating an emergency vehicle under the authority of the Commissioner of Correction, has the meaning stated in Transportation Article, § 22-218(c)(7), Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (3) “Emergency Vehicle” has the meaning stated in the Transportation Article, § 11-118, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (4) “Law Enforcement Officer” has the meaning stated in Public Safety Article, § 3-101(e), Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (5) “Managing official” has the meaning stated in Correctional Services Article, §1-101, Annotated Code of Maryland.

.05 Responsibility/Procedure.

A. The managing official shall:

- (1) Ensure that all designated emergency vehicles are equipped with agency-issued emergency equipment as authorized under the Transportation Article, § 22-218, Annotated Code of Maryland; and
- (2) Provide for proper maintenance and repair of the equipment.

B. Approved employees.

- (1) An employee who has not satisfactorily completed the approved emergency vehicle operation course of instruction shall not under any circumstances request authorization to operate an emergency vehicle with emergency equipment activated.
- (2) An approved employee shall:
 - (a) Inspect the emergency vehicle and equipment to ensure its proper operating condition prior to use.
 - (b) Exercise discretion and appropriate judgement in the use of the emergency vehicle and equipment;
 - (c) Whenever practical, request approval from a supervisor prior to operation or activation of emergency equipment; and
 - (d) Under no circumstances will engage in vehicular pursuits.

- (3) Whenever an employee requests authorization to activate the emergency equipment, the supervisor or managing official will consider the circumstances to determine if the activation is appropriate.

C. Emergency Equipment.

- (1) In accordance with Transportation Article, § 22-218(c)(2), Annotated Code of Maryland, an approved employee assigned to the Internal Investigation Division or the Warrant Apprehension Unit as a law enforcement officer, may use an emergency vehicle equipped with and display red, white, or blue lights or signal devices.
- (2) In accordance with Transportation Article, § 22-218(c)(7), Annotated Code of Maryland, a commissioner, warden, or an approved employee assigned to the Home Detention Unit and the K-9 Unit, as a Special Police Officer, may use an emergency vehicle equipped with and display red lights or signal devices.

D. Examples of Authorized Emergency Equipment Use.

- (1) The use of emergency equipment by an approved employee during an emergency may be justified when:
 - (a) A Department employee is requesting assistance in the containment and apprehension of an inmate, detainee, or offender who is presenting the requesting employee with a potentially dangerous or life-threatening situation;
 - (b) A Department employee is requesting assistance in the location and apprehension of an escaped inmate, detainee or offender; or
 - (c) When a managing official is responding to an emergency at a Department facility or other secure location used to lodge or shelter an inmate, detainee, or offender (e.g. hospital, transitional housing, etc...).
- (2) The use of emergency equipment by an approved employee during normal vehicle operations may be justified when the vehicle:
 - (a) Is double-parked during an emergency situation;
 - (b) Arrives first on the scene of an accident and the vehicle is used to protect the accident scene until other assistance arrives;
 - (c) Is used to protect disabled vehicles that are impeding traffic until flares can be positioned; and
 - (d) Is used to protect other motorists who may be approaching a road hazard.

E. Operational Guidelines for Use of Emergency Equipment.

- (1) An approved employee operating an emergency vehicle in response to an emergency situation shall:
 - (a) Obey all stop signs and other traffic control devices used in the regulation of intersection maneuvers; and only when opposing traffic has yielded the right of way, proceed;
 - (b) Be aware of and responsive to road conditions, traffic volume, and pedestrians; and
 - (c) Only use emergency equipment to gain a free flow through traffic and not as authorization to operate the vehicle in an unsafe or dangerous manner.
- (2) An approved employee's response speed may exceed posted speed limits, consistent with safety and statutory exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle, when the operator is using audible and visual signals.
- (3) A negligent decision to operate a motor vehicle in a particular manner under certain circumstances may result in an approved employee being held personally liable for persons injured or property damaged as a result of the approved employee's actions
- (4) Emergency equipment shall not be used while returning from an emergency situation.

.06 Attachments.

None

.07 History.

- A.** This directive supersedes provisions of any other prior existing Department or unit communication with which it may be in conflict.
- B.** Rescission: DCD 110-16, dated August 1, 2007 and K9D.110-07, dated August 27, 2017
- C.** Rescission: DCD 110-16, dated April 15, 1994

.08 Distribution Code.

- A
D
S: Office of Investigative Services – All Units