	Abbotsford Police Department **Policy and Procedure**	
	Operations	**Emergency Response**
	II.A.100	**Emergency Vehicle Operation**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITIONS 1
POLICY 1
PROCEDURE 2
Code 3 response 2
Training and Qualification 3

DEFINITIONS

(1) **Code 3** – for the purposes of this policy, operating an Emergency Vehicle with Emergency Equipment engaged, while exercising any or all of the privileges granted under s.122(1)(a)-(c) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

(2) **Emergency Equipment** - an Emergency Light and Emergency Siren.

(a) **Emergency Light** – a flashing red or blue light.

(b) **Emergency Siren** – an audible signal bell or exhaust whistle.

(3) **Emergency Vehicle** – for the purposes of this policy, a Police Vehicle as defined in I.G.060 Police Vehicles, equipped with Emergency Equipment.

POLICY

(4) Abbotsford Police Department (AbbyPD) employees will only operate Emergency Vehicles in compliance with the provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA), the *Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation* (EVDR) and AbbyPD policy and procedure.

(5) The decision to exercise the privileges granted by s.122 (1) of the MVA is at the discretion of the police officer or, as permitted by AbbyPD procedure, the Operational Support Officer.

PROCEDURE

CODE 3 RESPONSE

(6) In accordance with section 4 of the EVDR, police officers may respond Code 3 if the police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the risk of harm to members of the public from exercise of those privileges is less than the risk of harm to members of the public should those privileges not be exercised.

(7) Paragraph (6) notwithstanding, a police officer may exercise the privileges granted under s.122 of the MVA without operating Emergency Equipment 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.

(a) Paragraph (7) does not apply if the police officer must disregard a stop sign or approach or pass signs described in s. 147 of the MVA relating to schools and playgrounds.

(8) Exigent circumstances notwithstanding, only AbbyPD police officers qualified in Emergency Vehicle operation may operate an Emergency Vehicle Code 3. In situations of exigency, the Code 3 operation of an Emergency Vehicle by anyone other than a qualified AbbyPD police officer must strictly adhere to the considerations in section 5 of the EVDR ("Emergency response by a person other than a peace officer").

(9) When determining whether to respond Code 3, police officers must drive with due regard for safety, and will consider the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to:

(a) the nature and circumstances of the suspected offence or incident;

(b) the risk of harm posed by the manner in which the emergency vehicle is being or is likely to be operated;

(c) the risk of harm posed by the distance, speed or length of time required or likely to be required to exercise the privileges;

(d) the nature, condition and use of the Highway;

(e) the volume and nature of pedestrian or vehicular traffic that is, or might reasonably be expected to be, in the area; and

(f) the degree of risk of harm to members of the public in consideration of the seriousness, the nature and the circumstance of the suspected offence or incident.

(10) When responding Code 3:

(a) the vehicle must slow to a speed consistent with reasonable care when approaching or entering an intersection (this may include coming to a complete stop); and

(b) the vehicle must come to a complete stop before proceeding through an intersection against a red traffic control signal or stop sign.

(11) The vehicle operator will advise the dispatcher of a Code 3 response. The dispatcher will advise the supervisor.

(12) If responding Code 3 and the circumstances or conditions supporting the Code 3 response change, the vehicle operator will reconsider whether continued Code 3 response is warranted and prudent.

(13) A supervisor may terminate a Code 3 response at any time.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

(14) AbbyPD police officers must successfully complete and maintain driver training as required by BC Provincial Policing Standards prior to operating an Emergency Vehicle Code 3.[1]

[1] BCPPS 3.2.4