

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

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PURPOSE

- (1) To provide Abbotsford Police Department (AbbyPD) employees clear direction regarding the operation of Emergency Vehicles.

DEFINITIONS

- (2) **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*.

122 (1) Despite anything in this Part, but subject to subsections (2) and (4), a driver of an emergency vehicle may do the following:

(a) exceed the speed limit;

(b) proceed past a red traffic control signal or stop sign without stopping;

(c) disregard rules and traffic control devices governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions;

...

- (3) **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.
- (4) **Emergency Vehicle** – for the purposes of this policy, an AbbyPD fleet vehicle equipped with Emergency Equipment.
- (5) **Highway** – has the same meaning as “highway” in the *Motor Vehicle Act*, namely:
- (a) every highway within the meaning of the *Transportation Act*,
 - (b) every road, street, lane or right of way designed or intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles, and
 - (c) every private place or passageway to which the public, for the purpose of the parking or servicing of vehicles, has access or is invited,
- but does not include an industrial road.
- (6) **Stop or Stand** - for the purposes of this policy, operating an Emergency Vehicle while exercising the privilege granted under s.122 (1) (d) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

122 (1) Despite anything in this Part, but subject to subsections (2) and (4), a driver of an emergency vehicle may do the following:

...

(d) stop or stand.

POLICY

- (7) AbbyPD employees will operate Emergency Vehicles in compliance with the provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA), the *Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation* (EVDR) and this policy.
- (8) The decision to exercise the privileges granted by s.122 of the MVA is made at the discretion of the police officer, or, as permitted by policy, the Operational Support Officer.
- (9) For policy regarding vehicle pursuits, refer to policy II.A.090 Police Pursuit. For policy regarding box and pin maneuvers, refer to policy II.A.095 Box and Pin Maneuvers.

CODE 3 RESPONSE

- (10) In accordance with the provisions 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 public should those privileges not be exercised.
- (11) Paragraph (10) 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 (11) 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.
- (12) Exigent circumstances notwithstanding, only AbbyPD police officers qualified in Emergency Vehicle operation may operate an Emergency Vehicle Code 3.
- (13) 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 posted 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;
- (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; and
- (g) the appropriate speed considering the circumstances.
- (14) The vehicle operator will advise the dispatcher of a Code 3 response. The dispatcher will advise the supervisor.

- (15) If responding Code 3 and the circumstances in paragraph (13) change, the vehicle operator will reconsider whether continued Code 3 response is warranted and prudent. A supervisor may terminate a Code 3 response at any time.
- (16) 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.

STOP OR STAND

- (17) Police officers and Operational Support Officers are permitted to Stop or Stand an Emergency Vehicle on a Highway.
- (18) When exercising the privilege to Stop or Stand, Emergency Equipment or Emergency Light alone must be activated.

NON-EMERGENCY USE OF EMERGENCY VEHICLE

- (19) Any AbbyPD employee with a valid Class 5 BC Driver's License may, with supervisor authorization, drive an Emergency Vehicle for non-emergency AbbyPD business purposes.
- (20) Exigent circumstances notwithstanding, use of Emergency Equipment by employees other than police officers or Operational Support Officers, is prohibited.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

- (21) AbbyPD police officers must pass designated driver training in order to be qualified to operate an Emergency Vehicle Code 3.¹
- (22) To maintain Emergency Vehicle operation qualifications, the police officer must:
- (a) biennially complete practical Emergency Vehicle Operation driving training, as determined by the AbbyPD Training Section; and
 - (b) triennially complete the CPKN BC Emergency Vehicle Operation online course.²

¹ BCPPS 3.2.4 (1)

² BCPPS 3.2.4 (3)

- (23) The AbbyPD maintains written records of the Emergency Vehicle Operation training completed by each police officer.³

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS	
Policy:	II.A.090 Police Pursuit
Legislation:	Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation
Legislation:	Motor Vehicle Act
BCPPS:	3.2.4 Emergency Vehicle Operations

DOCUMENT HISTORY	
Effective:	May 20, 1999 (earliest confirmed)
Revised:	May 5, 2021

³ BCPPS 3.2.4 (4)