
	BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT BEMCo Response Standards for Responding to Emergency Requests for Medical Services	
Policy Number:	PAGE: 1 of 3	
Policy Type:	Public Safety Guide	
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I. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the guidelines for an ambulance response using lights and sirens, categorized as Code 1 through Code 3 response. The goal is to ensure the safe and efficient operation of emergency vehicles thus minimizing potential risks to the public, responding crewmembers, and indirectly, patients requesting care.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all BEMCo personnel operating emergency response vehicles and making decisions regarding the appropriate use of lights and sirens during ambulance responses.

I. DEFINITIONS

Code 1: Routine response without lights and sirens.

- Lights and sirens are not activated
- Maintain normal traffic rules and regulations
- Adhere to speed limits and safe driving practices (use seat belts)

Code 2: Expedited response with lights and limited use of sirens

- Activate emergency lights with limited use of sirens
- Proceed with caution through traffic signals and intersections
- Maintain a safe speed and distance from other vehicles
- Consider the level of distress of the patient and the need for prompt medical attention
- If traffic conditions permit, drive at a moderate speed

Code 3: Emergency response with lights and full use of sirens.

- Activate both emergency lights and sirens.
- Proceed through intersections with caution, following local traffic laws.
- Give priority to patient safety and medical urgency.
- Maintain control of the vehicle while ensuring swift response.
- Communicate effectively with other emergency services for a coordinated response.

II. GUIDELINES

A. Decision-Making:

1. The decision to escalate or de-escalate the response code shall be based on the patient's clinical condition (i.e. chief medical complaint), their level of distress, and the potential risks associated with each code. Other factors to consider are the mechanism of injury (e.g. motor vehicle accidents with air bag deployments) or nature of illness.
2. Brandeis Police Dispatchers shall use their professional judgment to determine the appropriate response code, considering both patient needs and safety. Shift supervisors or OICs may overrule a police dispatcher's code determination if warranted.
3. Concerns by BEMCo crewmembers regarding a code determination shall be made to the Chief in writing with 48 hours.

B. Communications:

Crewmembers shall maintain effective communication with the Brandeis Police dispatcher throughout the response. Crewmembers/responding police officers must provide updates on the patient's condition and any changes in the response status. Concerns by BEMCo crewmembers regarding a code determination shall be voiced to the Chief in writing with 48 hours.

C. Safety First:

The safety of patients, crew members, and the public is paramount. Crew members should prioritize safety over speed during responses.

D. Training and Education:

All personnel operating emergency response vehicles shall undergo regular training on response protocols, vehicle operation, and safety measures.

E. Compliance:

Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary actions or corrective measures as per the organization's policies.

F. Prohibition of Personal Vehicle Usage:

1. Under no circumstances shall personnel use personal vehicles for responding to emergencies or transporting patients. The use of personal vehicles poses significant safety risks, lacks the necessary equipment and medical supplies, and may not comply with established emergency vehicle regulations.
2. All emergency responses and patient transports must be conducted using

authorized and properly equipped emergency response vehicles owned by the Brandeis.

3. Violation of this prohibition may result in severe disciplinary actions in accordance with the departmental policies, as well as potential legal liabilities in case of accidents or incidents involving personal vehicles.

G. Review and Revision:

This policy shall be reviewed biennially to ensure relevance and effectiveness. Any necessary revisions shall be made to reflect changes in regulations, best practices, or operational needs. By adhering to this policy, the organization aims to provide timely and safe medical assistance for patients while minimizing risks to all parties involved.