



Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center


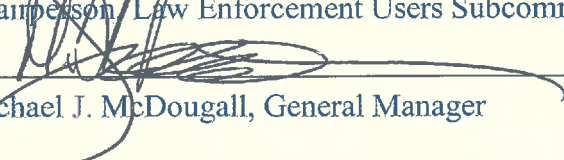
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9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL



Michael J. McDougall
General Manager

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Policy No. 4390	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 4300 – Radio Procedures	Date Revised: June 28, 2005
Accreditation Standards: None	
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY PEACE OFFICERS	
APPROVED:	
	Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee
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	Michael J. McDougall, General Manager

All officers and dispatchers must follow standardized guidelines for code 3 responses to reduce the hazards assumed by officers and the public.

An emergency (code 3) response by an officer is defined as the officer using emergency lights and siren. The act of emergency driving or a high speed pursuit is extremely hazardous and poses an incalculable risk to the lives and property of others. An officer must carefully and rationally evaluate the impact of weather and traffic conditions, coupled with the officer's driving ability, plus the circumstances surrounding the occurrence, before initiating a code 3 response.

During a code 3 response, getting to the scene quickly or immediate apprehension of a violator may, at first, appear certain; however, unanticipated obstacles including traffic conditions or the safety to the public may well dictate that the emergency response be canceled. An initial decision to respond code 3 or pursue a violator is not irrevocable.

Authorization for a Code 3 Response

The patrol supervisor may authorize or terminate a code 3 response by an officer.

Officers responding code 3 must advise the dispatcher over the radio. Dispatchers will make certain the patrol supervisor is aware of the code 3 response.

Dispatchers can only assign a code 3 response to an officer when directed to do so by the patrol supervisor. An officer assigned to respond code 3 by a dispatcher will consider it a direct order from the patrol supervisor.

Dispatchers will advise officers which supervisor authorized the emergency response.
Example:

159, NetCom, respond code 3 to *(location)* for *(type of call)* per 121

Dispatchers will respond to code 3 response requests from allied agencies in accordance with Policy No. 4210 (Cover Units).

Dispatchers will advise field supervisors of all factors that may warrant a higher response than code 2.