

## NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/17/2013	SUBJECT:  <b>RESPONDING TO CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	Number 305.00 (NYSLEAP O-43-1)
RESCINDS: 04/15/2003		Number of pages 2

### I. PURPOSE:

- A. To address times and circumstances which call for high speed travel as a means of accomplishing the overall goals of the Niagara Falls Police Department.

### II. POLICY:

- A. It is the policy of the Niagara Falls Police Department that all officers shall operate motor vehicles within posted speed limits unless the performance of duty requires otherwise.
- B. When the performance of duty requires an officer to exceed the maximum speed limit, he/she shall display red lights and siren, except when to do so would defeat the purpose of the radio call.

### III. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- A. In the event any of the following exist, communications personnel shall dispatch sufficient police personnel to the scene of occurrence as quickly as possible:
  - 1. Apparent threat to life or danger of serious physical injury or major property damage;
  - 2. A serious felony that has just occurred and the probability exists that a suspect is near the scene or in the general area.
  - 3. A serious injury or illness that may result in substantial personal harm if emergency assistance is delayed. This includes personal injury and automobile accidents.
- B. Only police vehicles specifically dispatched are authorized to respond in an emergency response mode. All other assisting units must get authorization

from the police dispatcher before operating in an emergency mode. It is understood that the police dispatcher speaks with the authority of the desk lieutenant at all times.

- C. Lights and siren must both be activated during response to emergency situations, except in a silent response mode. However, in no case will the emergency overhead lights be extinguished when proceeding past a red signal, flashing red signal, stop sign, or when exceeding the maximum speed limit, in a silent response mode. Lights may be deactivated before entering the line of sight of the call.
- D. The driver of an emergency vehicle may exercise the privileges set forth in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law only when involved in an emergency operation. At no time and under no circumstances will the operator of an emergency vehicle exceed the maximum speed limit or proceed past a steady red signal, flashing red signal or stop sign in a manner which will endanger or disregard the safety of persons or property whether or not an emergency situation exists.