

**Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's
Recommended Operating Guidelines**

Effective: 11-04-91
Revised: 06-27-11
Reviewed: December 2020
Review: January 2025

SUBJECT: Emergency Driving 86-1

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all Genesee County Fire Departments who may respond emergency apparatus to an emergency scene, or provide emergency apparatus to a mutual aid call or an emergency coordination situation.

PURPOSE

The Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's shall provide for the safety of all fire service personnel by establishment of a county wide guideline for emergency driving of all emergency apparatus.

All emergency response situations are hazardous and increase the potential for becoming involved in\or causing serious accidents. While the importance of a timely response is recognized, it is better to respond safely to the scene of an emergency, than to needlessly injure or kill fire personnel or a member of the general public, thus not completing the response.

RESPONSE CODES FOR DRIVING

During a response, by a fire department, whether the response is within the department's jurisdiction or a mutual aid call, not all responses necessitate a "hot" response.

The following emergency light and siren codes for emergency vehicles shall be adhered to by all county fire departments when responding:

Non-Emergency Response (also known as: No lights and no siren or code 1) shall mean a response with an emergency vehicle with no lights and\or siren in operation and all traffic laws under the Michigan Vehicle Code must be adhered to by the driver\engineer\operator.

Emergency Response (also known as Lights and Siren or code 3) shall mean a response with an emergency vehicle with lights and siren in operation to an emergency situation. The driver/operator is required to comply with Public Act 300 of 1949 during their emergency response.

All fire departments shall have their own policies or guidelines explaining which level of a response should be used for a particular incident type.

MOTOR VEHICLE CODE EXEMPTIONS

Department personnel are to be trained on the exemptions provided within the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended.

MUTUAL AID RESPONSE

During an incident where it may be necessary for other fire departments to move into vacant fire stations outside their jurisdiction, the responding department will do so in a non-emergency response.

If an emergency occurs in an area that the assisting department is going to or providing fire protection for while en-route to or while at the station, this department may upgrade their response to an emergency response.

If a department is responding directly to an emergency scene for a mutual aid assist, an emergency response is authorized as deemed necessary. If the incident commander does not want an emergency response, that shall be relayed and disseminated as applicable.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this guideline will be the direct responsibility of the and the officers and firefighters of the member departments within Genesee County.