

Oakland County Medical Control Authority
System Protocols

USE OF LIGHTS AND SIRENS

June, 2018

Section 8.34

Use of Lights and Sirens

Purpose

To provide a countywide policy on the appropriate use of lights and sirens.

Procedure

- A. Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (Public Act 300, Sections 257.603 and 257.653), the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code governs the driving of emergency vehicles. All Oakland County EMS Agencies will abide by the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.
- B. Responding to Calls
1. EMS units may respond to requests for service with lights and sirens where there is:
 - a threat to life
 - a threat to limb
 - a threat of personal injury
 - an unknown situation
 2. Where Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD) and/or a tiered EMS response are/is available, the EMS Agency is encouraged to develop procedures that reduce unnecessary use of lights and sirens. The procedures may include, but are not limited to, the use of established EMD call screening protocols and evaluation of the scene/patient by first responder personnel.
- C. Transporting a Patient
1. EMS units may transport patients with lights and sirens when:
 - the patient is determined to be a priority 1 patient.
 - the patient is determined to be a priority 2 patient **AND** their condition is unstable during the course of the transport or the patient becomes violent.
 - the patient is a stable priority 2 or priority 3 when transport is initiated, but the patient's condition deteriorates en route to the hospital.
 2. Priority 3 patients will **NOT** be transported with the use of lights and sirens.
- D. Returning from the transport, returning to a service area.
1. EMS units may **ONLY** utilize lights and sirens to return to their area **IF THEY ARE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY CALL** as described in B. above.
 2. Lights and sirens will **NOT** be used to return to an area when the unit is not responding to another emergency call.
- E. Agency Specific Policies
- This policy does not preclude individual agencies from developing internal policies on this subject, as long as the policy includes the contents of this policy as a minimum.