

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: RESPONSE DRIVING		NUMBER: 503.0
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2019	REVIEW: December 2022	
	TOPIC: PURPOSE AND POLICY		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41,2,1		
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide a policy on the response driving of County-owned police vehicles.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fairfax County Police Department, that under certain emergency situations, sworn officers are permitted to operate County-owned police vehicles beyond the limits of normal driving, with due regard for safety of all.

<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">RESPONSE DRIVING</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.1</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">DEFINITIONS</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.1	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01	

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Controlled Intersection: Any location of intersecting streets or highways where vehicular traffic is controlled by signal lights or signs.
- B. Pacing: The act of following a motor vehicle at a coordinated speed to determine the followed vehicle's actual speed in violation of the posted speed limit.
- C. Response Driving: That driving of an expeditious nature which relates to the effort made in a County-owned police vehicle to proceed to the location of an emergency or where apprehending violators of the law, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Va. Code Ann. [§ 46.2-920](#) (Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements), to include the usage of emergency lighting equipment, siren, and having due regard for the safety of persons and property. Response Driving includes operation of a County-owned police vehicle both in apprehension of persons suspected of committing a violation of law or in a response to an emergency situation.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES		NUMBER: 503.2
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2019	REVIEW: December 2022	
	TOPIC: GENERAL GUIDELINES		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.1	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01	

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Police response must, of necessity, be governed by the nature of the situation, the amount of information a call or complainant provides, and the credibility of that information.
- B. There are instances where an officer may or may not be justified to expedite to the location of a call, depending on the:
 - 1. Nature of the call;
 - 2. Seriousness of the situation; and
 - 3. Present variable conditions, to include but not limited to, traffic congestion, weather, and road surface.
- C. Any situation in which there is a high probability of death or serious bodily injury to a person is one that calls for action that is immediate and swift.
- D. Recognizing that the sanctity of human life is paramount, the responding officer must bear in mind that the response objective is to get to the location of the situation as soon as possible, safely and without danger to the officer or to others.
- E. Because an officer's judgment and decision to utilize response driving will depend on the total information received from the police radio dispatcher or other source, it is critically important for such information to be complete and accurate. Recognizing the importance of communication content and accuracy, EVERY INDIVIDUAL involved in the communication process must exercise great care to obtain as much information as possible from the reporting source, and to make every effort to ensure information accuracy throughout the process, from the initial source to the officer in the field.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES		NUMBER: 503.3
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2019	REVIEW: December 2022	
	TOPIC: RESPONSE DRIVING		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.1, 41.3.1, 41.3.3, 70.1.4, 81.2.4	<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01, OPR.01.02, OPR.01.03, OPR.01.04, OPR.01.06		

I. RESPONSE DRIVING

- A. Officers must be able to articulate the reason(s) why response driving was utilized.
- B. Except for the very limited period of time in which pacing is accomplished, response driving shall require the use of emergency equipment and in accordance with Va. Code Ann. [§ 46.2-920](#); Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements (see Addendum).
- C. While response driving, the operator shall not be distracted by personal or issued communication devices.
- D. While response driving, seat belts shall be worn by the operator and any passengers.
- E. While transporting a prisoner, an officer shall not utilize response driving.
- F. Regardless of the seriousness of the situation where officers are utilizing response driving, and except in circumstances that are clearly beyond the operator's control, the operator shall be held accountable for the manner in which the County-owned police vehicle is operated.
- G. When approaching a controlled intersection or *other location where there is a reasonable possibility of collision*, the operator of a County-owned police vehicle being operated under response driving shall be granted an exemption as explained in Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-920; Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements, only

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	<p>TOPIC: RESPONSE DRIVING</p>	

when the operator utilizes the emergency lights and:

- Sounds a siren

OR if no siren:

- Slows the vehicle down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions, **yields the right of way** to the driver of another vehicle approaching or entering the intersection from another direction or, if required for safety, **brings the vehicle to a complete stop** before proceeding with due regard for the safety of persons and property.

- H. The nature of certain crimes in progress may call for the use of the siren to be discontinued on close approach to the location of the situation, as reasonably necessary. If officers on close approach discontinue the use of emergency lights AND siren, then the officers must follow all traffic laws.
- I. Under certain limited conditions, such as open highway with no traffic, the siren may be used intermittently with emergency lights in constant operation. Response driving under these conditions requires extreme caution.
- J. For emergency situations, such as *Police Officer in Trouble (Signal 1)*, only the units assigned and those nearest the location should respond utilizing response driving. For reasons of safety, the responding units should advise the dispatcher as to the location they are responding from. The first officer arriving at the location who can do so should advise the dispatcher of the conditions as soon as possible in order that additional units can be canceled or dispatched without delay. The units that are canceled or when advised to no longer response drive shall resume normal driving.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES		NUMBER: 503.4
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2019	REVIEW: December 2022	
	TOPIC: TRUCK CHASSIS VEHICLES		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 41.2.1	VLEPSC: OPR.01.01	

I. TRUCK CHASIS VEHICLES

- A. Only those sworn personnel authorized by the Chief of Police and who have received training from the Criminal Justice Academy, may engage in response driving while operating an authorized Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) or a truck chassis platform vehicle in accordance with General Order 503.3, Response Driving.
- B. The Criminal Justice Academy shall maintain a list of all sworn personnel who are certified to use such vehicles for response driving.
- C. Sworn personnel who are authorized to engage in response driving mode in an authorized truck chassis or SUV platform vehicle shall exercise caution while entering a curve or entrance/exit ramp to ensure their speed is appropriate to safely handle the vehicle.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  GENERAL ORDER	SUBJECT: RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES		NUMBER: 503.5
	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2019	REVIEW: December 2022	
	TOPIC: RESPONSE DRIVING VEHICLES		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: Not Applicable	VLEPSC: Not Applicable	

I. RESPONSE DRIVING VEHICLES

- A. The operators of County-owned vehicles with a “Response Driving Rated Vehicle” sticker affixed to the door frame may not use that vehicle for pursuit driving. Operators are reminded that utilizing response driving shall be with due regard for safety and be in accordance with both Va. Code Ann. [§ 46.2-920](#); Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements (see Addendum) and General Order Series 503, Response Driving of Police Vehicles. In the event the County-owned police vehicle does not have a “Response Driving Rated Vehicle” sticker affixed to the door frame, then that vehicle may only be operated in accordance with General Order Series 502, Normal Vehicle Operations.

<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.6</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">TRAINING</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces: <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: 33.1.5	VLEPSC: ADM.06.01	

I. TRAINING

Every three years, all sworn officers shall receive Criminal Justice Academy training in emergency vehicle operations. If an officer does not receive training in emergency vehicle operations every three years, that officer will not be authorized to response drive.

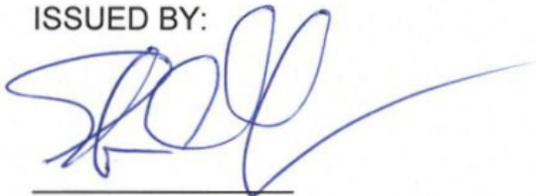
<p style="text-align: center;">FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ORDER</p>	SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">RESPONSE DRIVING OF POLICE VEHICLES</p>		NUMBER: <p style="text-align: center;">503.7</p>
	EFFECTIVE DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">January 1, 2019</p>	REVIEW: <p style="text-align: center;">December 2022</p>	
	TOPIC: <p style="text-align: center;">LEGAL REFERENCES</p>		
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY			<input type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replaces: 501.1 <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	CALEA: Not Applicable	VLEPSC: Not Applicable	

I. LEGAL REFERENCES

- A. [Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-920](#); Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements.

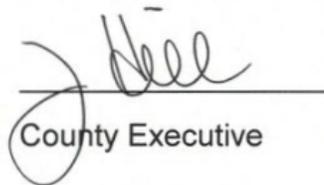
General Orders 503.0 through 503.7 become effective on January 1, 2019, and rescind all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the subjects.

ISSUED BY:



Chief of Police

APPROVED BY:



County Executive

ADDENDUM TO GENERAL ORDER 503.4, RESPONSE DRIVING

CODE OF VIRGINIA § 46.2-920: Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements

§ 46.2-920. Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements.

A. The driver of any emergency vehicle, when such vehicle is being used in the performance of public services, and when such vehicle is operated under emergency conditions, may, without subjecting himself to criminal prosecution:

1. Disregard speed limits, while having due regard for safety of persons and property;
2. Proceed past any steady or flashing red signal, traffic light, stop sign, or device indicating moving traffic shall stop if the speed of the vehicle is sufficiently reduced to enable it to pass a signal, traffic light, or device with due regard to the safety of persons and property;
3. Park or stop notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter;
4. Disregard regulations governing a direction of movement of vehicles turning in specified directions so long as the operator does not endanger life or property;
5. Pass or overtake, with due regard to the safety of persons and property, another vehicle at any intersection;
6. Pass or overtake with due regard to the safety of persons and property, while en route to an emergency, stopped or slow-moving vehicles, by going to the left of the stopped or slow-moving vehicle either in a no-passing zone or by crossing the highway centerline; or
7. Pass or overtake with due regard to the safety of persons and property, while en route to an emergency, stopped or slow-moving vehicles, by going off the paved or main traveled portion of the roadway on the right. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, vehicles exempted in this instance will not be required to sound a siren or any device to give automatically intermittent signals.

B. The exemptions granted to emergency vehicles by subsection A in subdivisions A1, A3, A4, A5, and A6 shall apply only when the operator of such vehicle displays a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights as provided in §§ [46.2-1022](#) and [46.2-1023](#) and sounds a siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals, as may be reasonably necessary. The exemption granted under subdivision A 2 shall apply only when the operator of such emergency vehicle displays a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights as provided in §§ [46.2-1022](#) and [46.2-1023](#) and either (a) sounds a siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals or (b) slows the vehicle down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions, yields right-of-way to the driver of another vehicle approaching or entering the intersection

ADDENDUM TO GENERAL ORDER 503.4, RESPONSE DRIVING

CODE OF VIRGINIA § 46.2-920: Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements

from another direction or, if required for safety, brings the vehicle to a complete stop before proceeding with due regard for the safety of persons and property. In addition, the exemptions granted to emergency vehicles by subsection A shall apply only when there is in force and effect for such vehicle either (i) standard motor vehicle liability insurance covering injury or death to any person in the sum of at least \$100,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident and, subject to the limit for one person, to a limit of \$300,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and to a limit of \$20,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident or (ii) a certificate of self-insurance issued pursuant to § [46.2-368](#). Such exemptions shall not, however, protect the operator of any such vehicle from criminal prosecution for conduct constituting reckless disregard of the safety of persons and property. Nothing in this section shall release the operator of any such vehicle from civil liability for failure to use reasonable care in such operation.

C. For the purposes of this section, the term "emergency vehicle" shall mean:

1. Any law-enforcement vehicle operated by or under the direction of a federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer (i) in the chase or apprehension of violators of the law or persons charged with or suspected of any such violation or (ii) in response to an emergency call;
2. Any regional detention center vehicle operated by or under the direction of a correctional officer responding to an emergency call or operating in an emergency situation;
3. Any vehicle used to fight fire, including publicly owned state forest warden vehicles, when traveling in response to a fire alarm or emergency call;
4. Any emergency medical services vehicle designed or used for the principal purpose of providing emergency medical services where human life is endangered;
5. Any Department of Emergency Management vehicle or Office of Emergency Medical Services vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or operating in an emergency situation;
6. Any Department of Corrections vehicle designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections, when (i) responding to an emergency call at a correctional facility, (ii) participating in a drug-related investigation, (iii) pursuing escapees from a correctional facility, or (iv) responding to a request for assistance from a law-enforcement officer;
7. Any vehicle authorized to be equipped with alternating, blinking, or flashing red or red and white secondary warning lights under the provisions of § [46.2-1029.2](#); and

ADDENDUM TO GENERAL ORDER 503.4, RESPONSE DRIVING

CODE OF VIRGINIA § 46.2-920: Certain vehicles exempt from regulations in certain situations; exceptions and additional requirements

8. Any Virginia National Guard Civil Support Team vehicle when responding to an emergency.

D. Any law-enforcement vehicle operated by or under the direction of a federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer may disregard speed limits, while having due regard for safety of persons and property, (i) in testing the accuracy of speedometers of such vehicles, (ii) in testing the accuracy of speed measuring devices specified in § [46.2-882](#), or (iii) in following another vehicle for the purpose of determining its speed.

E. A Department of Environmental Quality vehicle, while en route to an emergency and with due regard to the safety of persons and property, may overtake and pass stopped or slow-moving vehicles by going off the paved or main traveled portion of the highway on the right or on the left. These Department of Environmental Quality vehicles shall not be required to sound a siren or any device to give automatically intermittent signals, but shall display red or red and white warning lights when performing such maneuvers.

F. Any law-enforcement vehicle operated by or under the direction of a federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer while conducting a funeral escort, wide-load escort, dignitary escort, or any other escort necessary for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians may, without subjecting himself to criminal prosecution:

1. Disregard speed limits, while having due regard for safety of persons and property;
2. Proceed past any steady or flashing red signal, traffic light, stop sign, or device indicating moving traffic shall stop if the speed of the vehicle is sufficiently reduced to enable it to pass a signal, traffic light, or device with due regard for the safety of persons and property;
3. Park or stop notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter;
4. Disregard regulations governing a direction of movement of vehicles turning in specified directions so long as the operator does not endanger life or property; or
5. Pass or overtake, with due regard for the safety of persons and property, another vehicle.

Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, vehicles exempted in this subsection may sound a siren or any device to give automatically intermittent signals.