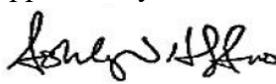


Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health- Proctor EMS	Page # 1 of 2	Section:	Policy #: 37
	Approved by: 		Date: 2/2019 Review by: 2/2020
	Supersedes: Date Revised: 2/2019		
	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties: Melissa Stokes		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: Use of Emergency Lights and Sirens During Transport			

I. POLICY:

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Code governs vehicle operations for emergency vehicles. All licensed life support vehicles will abide by the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code (625 ILCS) <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs5.asp?ActID=1815>

II. POLICY SCOPE:

All transport and non-transport EMS personnel.

III. PROCEDURE:

**A. Transporting a Patient**

1. EMS units may transport patients using lights and sirens when:

a. The patient's condition meets Priority One prioritization level AND the condition is unstable or deteriorating AND there is a need to circumvent significant traffic delays and obstructions.

**OR**

b. The patient's condition requires immediate lifesaving intervention which cannot be accomplished by EMS personnel, with approved equipment AND there is a need to circumvent traffic delays or obstruction.

2. Non-emergency patients will NOT be transported with the use of lights and siren.

**B. Authority to Require Lights and Siren Use**

Neither the patient's sending nor receiving physician has the authority to require the use of lights and siren during transport; this policy shall always be followed.

**C. Prudent Use of Lights and Siren During Transport**

Lights and sirens may be used to clear traffic and then shut down, if prudent, where no obstruction or delay is present, provided both lights and siren are activated at least 500 feet before any intersection or obstruction to be cleared. When lights and siren

are not in use, the vehicle must be operated as a typical non-emergency vehicle, per the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code. Under no circumstances shall the emergency vehicle be responding or transporting with just the use of emergency lighting.

**E. 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.
2. Lights and sirens will NOT be used to return to an area when the unit is not responding to another emergency call.

**F. Education**

Transporting Life Support Agencies shall ensure annual training surrounding the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code, safe use of lights and siren, this policy and related agency policies.

**G. 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.

(625 ILCS 5/11-205) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-205)

Sec. 11-205. Public officers and employees to obey Act-Exceptions.

(a) The provisions of this Chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this State or any county, city, town, district or any other political subdivision of the State, except as provided in this Section and subject to such specific exceptions as set forth in this Chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(b) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this Section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.

(c) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

1. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this Chapter;
2. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be required and necessary for safe operation;
3. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property;
4. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(d) The exceptions herein granted to an authorized emergency vehicle, other than a police vehicle, shall apply only when the vehicle is making use of either an audible signal when in motion or visual signals meeting the

requirements of Section 12-215 of this Act.

(e) The foregoing provisions do not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty of driving with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.

(f) Unless specifically made applicable, the provisions of this Chapter, except those contained in Section 11-204 and Articles IV and V of this Chapter, shall not apply to persons, motor vehicles and equipment while actually engaged in work upon a highway but shall apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

(Source: P.A. 89-710, eff. 2-14-97; 90-257, eff. 7-30-97.)