

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all employees, patients, and the general public during emergency and non-emergency vehicle operations.

POLICY:

All personnel will comply with the procedures set forth in this policy while operating any Authority vehicle, including both emergency and non-emergency operations. While driving Authority vehicles employees will follow all traffic laws as set forth by the State of Michigan Motor Vehicle Codes. When driving Authority vehicles all personnel shall be consistent with the provisions set forth in the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code Michigan Public Act 300 or 1949 as amended MCL §257 et al. Anyone driving a vehicle owned or operated by JVEMSA must possess a valid Michigan driver's license.

PROCEDURE:

I. ACTIVATION OF EMERGENCY WARNING EQUIPMENT

The following procedures will be followed regarding the activation of emergency warning equipment (lights and sirens);

1. While operating the vehicle on an emergency response, the driver will be sure to bring the vehicle to a complete stop for any of the following conditions
 - a. When directed to do so by a law enforcement official
 - b. When continued operation of the vehicle would be unsafe for the occupants
 - c. When arriving at an intersection with a red stop signal or stop sign, where he/she is not assured that all traffic has come to a complete stop to allow him/her the right of way.
 - d. Blind intersections or intersections where the driver cannot account for all traffic at the intersection
 - e. Road hazards and obstructions
 - f. A school bus displaying red signals
 - g. A railway crossing with warning lights activated
2. While operating a vehicle during an emergency response the driver will obey all posted speed limits unless emergency warning equipment has been activated. If emergency warning equipment is activated, the driver will only operate the vehicle at speeds at which he/she can safely control the vehicle and are prudent for the road conditions and traffic.
3. While backing from a driveway, parking spot or street into oncoming traffic, emergency lights will be activated and a spotter used either from inside or outside of the vehicle.
4. At no time will the driver of an Authority vehicle activate emergency warning equipment for the sole purpose of proceeding through traffic signals.
5. At a minimum, secondary emergency lights or four way emergency flashers will be activated on any vehicle parked in a roadway or in a location not designated as a parking area.

II. DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Prior to operations of the vehicle conduct a visual inspection of the vehicle looking for the following:
 - a. Assurance there is no damage to or leakage from the vehicle
 - b. Assurance that all equipment is stowed
 - c. Assurance that all compartment doors are closed
 - d. Clearance from any obstruction
 - e. Pedestrians are at a safe distance
2. Shall be directly responsible for the prudent operation of the vehicle
3. Will remain familiar with the operations of all Authority vehicles including weight, weight limits and dimensions.

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

4. His/her first priority will be the safe arrival of the vehicle at the emergency scene and the safe transportation of the patient and passengers to their destination
5. Shall not move the vehicle until all personnel riding are secured with seatbelts and /or located in approved riding positions.
6. When approaching any intersection the driver will do so with caution visually accounting for all traffic. The driver will only proceed into clear intersections and only with due regard.
7. Will use extra caution when operating a vehicle in inclement weather
8. Will not operate the vehicle in reverse without the use of a spotter from inside or outside the vehicle.
9. Will take reasonable steps to prevent rollover of the vehicle by doing the following
 - a. Reducing speeds during cornering
 - b. Reducing speeds at intersections or other locations where quick defensive maneuvers may be necessary.
 - c. Reducing speeds when on inclines
 - d. If the vehicle leaves the road surface, DO NOT attempt to reenter the road surface. Apply gentle braking and gradually bring the vehicle to a stop
 - e. Coast rather than brake whenever possible
 - f. Do not rapidly accelerate
10. At no time will the driver eat food while the driving the vehicle.
11. At no time will an Authority vehicle be driven over fire hoses, hydraulic lines and power lines or cords.
12. At no time will an Authority vehicle be driven through median on divided highways, through ditches or steep inclines, over curbs or other roadway or parking dividers, any other areas where it is not generally accepted to drive a motor vehicle.
13. At no time will the driver of an Authority vehicle use a text messaging device while driving unless said use is to read incident address.
14. At no time will the driver of an Authority vehicle use a cellular telephone while the vehicle is in motion unless said use is specifically related to the response that the employee is involved with or regarding Authority business.
15. At no time while operating an Authority vehicle with emergency warning equipment in use will the driver of an Authority vehicle use a cellular telephone.
16. When parking an Authority vehicle on the street or in any location not designated as a parking spot, the driver will ensure that at a minimum either the secondary emergency lights or four way emergency flashers are activated.

III. FRONT SEAT PASSENGER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. These responsibilities only apply to Authority employees. If there is no front seat passenger, or a passenger other than an Authority employee, the driver will assume these duties (with the exception of spotting).
 - a. Operation of the radio
 - b. Ensure that all other passengers are properly restrained
 - c. Ensure that the drive is operating the vehicle in a safe manner
 - d. Be on the lookout and report to the driver any obstructions in the roadway
 - e. Act as a spotter when the vehicle is in reverse
2. Shall assist the driver in ascertaining the quickest and safest route of response to a call
3. Shall assist the driver in accounting for traffic at an intersection
4. Operate onboard computer devices

VI. OTHER DRIVING CONSIDERATIONS

1. All front seat occupants' will use safety restraints at all time. Other occupants will use safety restraints whenever practical. See *Policy 202.1.1 Safety Restraints*.

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

2. The recipient, not the Authority, is responsible for any fines received as a result of violation of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code or any other Federal, State, Local laws or ordinances. This includes any time an employee is operating or occupying a vehicle, Authority owned or not, while working for the Authority.
3. Employees will not allow non-employees to drive Authority vehicles except in situations where it is necessary for the driver to accompany EMS personnel in the back of the ambulance to facilitate patient care. In this case other EMS personnel, fire department personnel or law enforcement personnel may operate an Authority vehicle. However, the Authority employee who would otherwise be the driver is still responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle and will ensure that the designated driver is operating the vehicle in prudent manner.
4. Drivers will not utilize escorts by other emergency.
5. Drivers will not block intersections for other emergency vehicles
6. Drivers will not ram or otherwise purposefully drive into obstructive traffic.
7. All personnel will wear acceptable high visibility clothing or vests when functioning around an Authority vehicle on or adjacent to a Federal Aid roadway. These include but are not limited to Interstates, US Highways, State Routes, and local main roadways. This includes either during an emergency response, a non-emergency response or other situations such as breakdowns, where the Authority employees would need to work outside of the vehicle near a roadway.

III. MICHIGAN MOTOR VEHICLE CODE:

The following statements are excerpts from the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code PA 300 of 1949 that pertain to the operations of emergency vehicles. It does not contain the entire Motor Vehicle Code. Drivers are responsible to know and follow all Federal, State and Local laws and ordinances.

257.1b "Ambulance" defined.

Sec. 1b. "Ambulance" means a privately or publicly owned motor vehicle for highway use that is specially designed or constructed and equipped, and is intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for the transportation of persons who are sick, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless, including dual purpose police patrol cars and funeral coaches or hearses, and which is equipped according to section 7 of Act No. 258 of the Public Acts of 1968, as amended, being section 257.1207 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

History: Add. 1975, Act 100, Eff. July 1, 1976.

257.2 "Authorized emergency vehicle" defined; additional definitions.

Sec. 2.

(1) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means any 1 of the following:

(a) Vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles, ambulances, privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer or paid fire fighters, or volunteer members of an emergency rescue unit if authorized by the chief of an organized fire department, a county sheriff, or the director of the department of state police, or privately owned motor vehicles of volunteer or paid members of a life support agency licensed by the department of licensing and regulatory affairs if authorized by the life support agency.

(b) For purposes of section 698(5)(c) during an emergency, a vehicle owned and operated by a federally recognized nonprofit charitable organization that is used exclusively for assistance during that emergency.

(c) For purposes of section 653a, a road service vehicle giving a visual signal by means of a flashing, rotating, or oscillating red or amber light. As used in this subdivision, "road service vehicle" means a vehicle that is clearly marked and readily recognizable as a vehicle used to assist disabled vehicles.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Emergency rescue unit" means an entity with training in a specialized discipline exceeding the level of training for medical first responders.

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

(b) "Life support agency" means that term as defined in section 20906 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20906.

(c) "Medical first responder" means that term as defined in section 20906 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20906.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾Am. 1956, Act 11, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1956;¾Am. 1975, Act 100, Eff. July 1, 1976;¾Am. 1976, Act 347, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1976;¾Am. 1997, Act 8, Imd. Eff. May 16, 1997;¾Am. 2004, Act 19, Eff. June 2, 2004;¾Am. 2011, Act 231, Imd. Eff. Nov. 22, 2011.

257.603 Applicability of chapter to government vehicles; exemption of authorized emergency vehicles; conditions; exemption of police vehicles not sounding audible signal; exemption of persons, vehicles, and equipment working on surface of highway.

Sec. 603.

(1) The provisions of this chapter applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highway apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or a county, city, township, village, district, or any other political subdivision of the state, subject to the specific exceptions set forth in this chapter with reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call, but not while returning from an emergency call, or when pursuing or apprehending a person who has violated or is violating the law or is charged with or suspected of violating the law may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions of this section.

(3) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may do any of the following:

(a) Park or stand, irrespective of this act.

(b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

(c) Exceed the prima facie speed limits so long as he or she does not endanger life or property.

(d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction.

(4) The exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the driver of the vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, air horn, or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, except as provided in subsection (5), and when the vehicle is equipped with at least 1 lighted lamp displaying a flashing, oscillating, or rotating red or blue light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet in a 360 degree arc unless it is not advisable to equip a police vehicle operating as an authorized emergency vehicle with a flashing, oscillating or rotating light visible in a 360 degree arc. In those cases, a police vehicle shall display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating red or blue light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle. Only police vehicles that are publicly owned shall be equipped with a flashing, oscillating, or rotating blue light that when activated is visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet in a 360 degree arc.

(5) A police vehicle shall retain the exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle without sounding an audible signal if the police vehicle is engaged in an emergency run in which silence is required.

(6) The exemptions provided for by this section apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway but do not apply to those persons and vehicles when traveling to or from work. The provisions of this chapter governing the size and width of vehicles do not apply to vehicles owned by public highway authorities when the vehicles are proceeding to or from work on public highways.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949 ;-- Am. 1951, Act 270, Eff. Sept. 28, 1951 ;-- Am. 1958, Act 133, Imd. Eff. Apr. 18, 1958 ;-- Am. 1962, Act 188, Eff. Mar. 28, 1963 ;-- Am. 1964, Act 7, Imd. Eff. Mar. 20, 1964 ;-- Am. 1975, Act 100, Eff. July 1, 1976 ;-- Am. 1976, Act 347, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1976 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 587, Eff. June 1, 1997

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

257.632 Exemption from speed limitations; police vehicles, fire department or fire patrol vehicles, and ambulances; conditions.

Sec. 632. The speed limitation set forth in this chapter shall not apply to vehicles when operated with due regard for safety under the direction of the police when traveling in emergencies or in the chase or apprehension of violators of the law or of persons charged with or suspected of a violation, nor to fire department or fire patrol vehicles when traveling in response to a fire alarm, nor to public or private ambulances when traveling in emergencies. This exemption shall apply only when the driver of the vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary or when the vehicle is equipped with at least 1 lighted lamp displaying a flashing, oscillating or rotating red or blue light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicles, unless the nature of the mission requires that a law enforcement officer travel without giving warning to suspected law violators. This exemption shall not however protect the driver of the vehicle from the consequences of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾ Am. 1976, Act 164, Imd. Eff. June 21, 1976.

257.653 Immediate approach of authorized emergency vehicle; duty of driver of another vehicle; duty of streetcar operator; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 653.

(1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with not less than 1 lighted flashing, rotating, or oscillating lamp exhibiting a red or blue light visible under normal atmospheric condition from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell:

(a) The driver of another vehicle shall yield the right of way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, clear of an intersection, and shall stop and remain in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) The operator of a streetcar shall immediately stop the car, clear of an intersection, and shall keep it in that position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) This section does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of persons using the highway.

(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾ Am. 1951, Act 270, Eff. Sept. 28, 1951;¾Am. 1964, Act 7, Imd. Eff. Mar. 20, 1964;¾Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

257.653a Stationary emergency vehicle giving visual signal; duty of approaching vehicle to exhibit due care and caution; violation; penalty.

Sec. 653a.

(1) Upon approaching and passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is giving a visual signal by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating red, blue, or white lights as permitted by section 698, the driver of an approaching vehicle shall exhibit due care and caution, as required under the following:

(a) On any public roadway with at least 2 adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, the driver of the approaching vehicle shall proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way by moving into a lane at least 1 moving lane or 2 vehicle widths apart from the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, unless directed otherwise by a police officer. If movement to an adjacent lane or 2 vehicle widths apart is not possible due to weather, road conditions, or the immediate presence of vehicular or pedestrian traffic in parallel moving lanes, the driver of the approaching vehicle shall proceed as required in subdivision (b).

(b) On any public roadway that does not have at least 2 adjacent lanes proceeding in the same direction as the stationary authorized emergency vehicle, or if the movement by the driver of the vehicle into an adjacent lane or 2 vehicle widths apart is not possible as described in subdivision (a), the approaching

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

vehicle shall reduce and maintain a safe speed for weather, road conditions, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic and proceed with due care and caution, or as directed by a police officer.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

(3) A person who violates this section and causes injury to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel in the immediate area of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

(4) A person who violates this section and causes death to a police officer, firefighter, or other emergency response personnel in the immediate area of the stationary authorized emergency vehicle is guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of not more than \$7,500.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 15 years, or both.

History: Add. 2000, Act 458, Eff. Mar. 28, 2001.

257.654 Vehicles forming part of funeral procession; right-of-way; flags; passing through funeral procession with vehicle as civil infraction.

Sec. 654.

(1) A motor vehicle forming part of a funeral procession, when going to a place of burial, shall have the right of way over all other vehicles except fire apparatus, ambulances, and police patrol vehicles at a street or highway intersection within this state if the vehicle in the funeral procession displays a flag which shall be fluorescent orange in color, and upon which shall be printed, stamped, or stained a black cross, the star of David, or the crescent and star. The lead vehicle and the last vehicle in the funeral procession may carry an additional flag. The flags shall not contain a name embossed or printed on the flag, except the word "funeral". (2) A person passing through a funeral procession of motor vehicles, designated pursuant to subsection (1), with a vehicle of any kind, is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾Am. 1952, Act 9, Eff. Sept. 18, 1952;¾Am. 1960, Act 105, Eff. Aug. 17, 1960;¾Am. 1975, Act 49, Imd. Eff. May 20, 1975;¾Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;¾Am. 1979, Act 148, Eff. Jan. 1, 1980.

257.680 Driving over unprotected fire hose; violation as civil infraction.

Sec. 680.

(1) A streetcar or vehicle shall not be driven over an unprotected hose of a fire department when laid down on a street, private driveway, or streetcar track, to be used at a fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the fire department official in command.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

Stopping for school bus, note there is no exception mentioned for emergency vehicles.

257.682 Stopping for school bus displaying flashing red lights; violation as civil infraction; meeting stopped school bus on divided highway; proof; rebuttable presumption; community service.

Sec. 682.

(1) The operator of a vehicle overtaking or meeting a school bus that has stopped and is displaying 2 alternately flashing red lights located at the same level shall bring the vehicle to a full stop not less than 20 feet from the school bus and shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the visual signals are no longer actuated. The operator of a vehicle who fails to stop for a school bus as required by this subsection, who passes a school bus in violation of this subsection, or who fails to stop for a school bus in violation of an ordinance that is substantially similar to this subsection, is responsible for a civil infraction.

(2) The operator of a vehicle upon a highway that has been divided into 2 roadways by leaving an intervening space, or by a physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing sections so constructed as to

JORDAN VALLEY EMS AUTHORITY POLICY

POLICY #:202.1.1

SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATIONS

CAAS STANDARD: 202.1.1

SCOPE: ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

impede vehicular traffic, is not required to stop upon meeting a school bus that has stopped across the dividing space, barrier, or section.

(3) In a proceeding for a violation of subsection (1), proof that the particular vehicle described in the citation was in violation of subsection (1), together with proof that the defendant named in the citation was, at the time of the violation, the registered owner of the vehicle, constitutes a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the driver of the vehicle at the time of the violation.

(4) In addition to the civil fine and costs provided for a civil infraction under section 907, the judge, district court referee, or district court magistrate may order a person who violates this section to perform not more than 100 hours of community service at a school.

History: 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;¾Am. 1956, Act 48, Eff. Aug. 11, 1956;¾Am. 1957, Act 284, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957;¾Am. 1958, Act 160, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958;¾Am. 1962, Act 92, Eff. Mar. 28, 1963;¾Am. 1963, Act 149, Eff. Sept. 6, 1963;¾Am. 1969, Act 240, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;¾Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;¾Am. 1979, Act 66, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;¾Am. 1982, Act 65, Imd.Eff. Apr. 8, 1982;¾Am. 1990, Act 188, Eff. Aug. 15, 1990;¾Am. 2012, Act 263, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2012.

POLICY HISTORY:

Implemented February 1, 2015

Reviewed