

TITLE: POLICE EMERGENCY/ROUTINE ESCORTS

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines and specify circumstances under which escort services will be provided.

DISCUSSION

Vehicular escorts are provided for a variety of reasons, i.e., emergency situation, funerals, the relocation of wide loads, providing for the safety of public officials and dignitaries, or for the safe transport of hazardous or unusual cargo.

POLICY

It will be the policy of the Santa Fe Police Department to allow sworn members to provide an emergency escort for a vehicle only when that vehicle contains a person who is gravely ill or seriously injured and that the sworn member reasonably believes any delay in obtaining medical attention would be life threatening.

In medical emergencies, whenever possible, the patient should be transported by ambulance. A sworn member must use discretion in such situations and make a determination of the time and distance to a hospital or medical facility and the arrival time of a rescue unit or ambulance. If an ambulance is called to transport a patient, the officer may assist in escorting the ambulance if ambulance personnel request it.

PROCEDURES FOR SWORN PERSONNEL

42.1.01 Sworn personnel that have been requested

to provide an emergency escort of an individual or a civilian vehicle will contact a field commander and advise him/her the circumstances surrounding the request. If one is not available, the officer will use his/her discretion in conducting the escort. If an escort is given, the following rules will apply:

- A. The first duty of the escorting officer in an emergency situation is to assure that the escorted vehicle arrives safely at the hospital or medical facility.
- B. Sworn personnel providing emergency escorts of civilian vehicles shall notify Communications personnel of the following:
 - 1. present location
 - 2. escort route
 - 3. intended destination
 - 4. nature of illness or injury
- C. Officers shall request that Regional Emergency Communications Center Dispatch Personnel immediately notify the appropriate medical facility of the escort and the estimated time of arrival. Information as to the nature of the medical emergency will also be relayed.
- D. While providing an emergency escort, sworn members shall utilize full emergency equipment (overhead lights and siren) and at all times operate the police vehicle in a reasonable and prudent manner, with due regard for prevailing road, traffic, weather conditions and traffic control devices and insuring that intersections are clear prior to crossing.
- E. Upon arrival at the destination point, the officer shall notify communications that the escort has been completed.

42.1.02 State of New Mexico regulations and laws governing operation of authorized emergency vehicles will be adhered to whenever operating a motor vehicle under emergency

conditions and failure to comply with said regulations and laws will not relieve the operator of liability.

EMERGENCY ESCORTS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

42.1.03 Sworn members shall not provide emergency escorts outside the jurisdiction of the City of Santa Fe, unless specifically authorized to do so by a Commander.

42.1.04 If a sworn member should escort someone out of the City on an emergency escort, (after being authorized), the sworn member shall notify Communications personnel, who will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the escort route and destination.

DIGNITARY, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, OR UNUSUAL ESCORTS

42.1.05 The Santa Fe Police Department may be asked to escort dignitaries and public officials. When such a request is made, it shall be coordinated through the S.W.A.T. Team Commander.

42.1.06 When the Santa Fe Police Department is asked to handle escorts for oversized vehicles or unusual escorts, the following procedures shall be followed:

- A. Permits shall first be obtained from the Code Enforcement Division for the City of Santa Fe. The permit shall state the route of the escort, the type of cargo and/or vehicle, the approved number of vehicles involved and date the escort is requested. Officers shall be sure the permit is correct before any escort is given.
- B. After receiving approval from the Chief's Office, the Patrol Team Commander shall be responsible for coordinating the escort.
- C. On oversized vehicles, private escort companies shall coordinate with the escorting officers. Prior to commencing the escort, officers shall

ensure that traffic engineers and the Public Service Company of New Mexico have been contacted so, if necessary, barriers may be moved or removed (i.e. traffic lights, power lines, etc.) or if the escort needs to be re-routed over bridges, etc., the engineers will be available to assist.

42.1.07 When the Santa Fe Police Department is asked to escort hazardous cargo, the requesting party shall be referred to the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, State Police Division, as they are the designated Haz-Mat Team for the State of New Mexico. This department shall assist the State Police if they request our assistance.

42.1.08 All routine escorts shall be coordinated through the Day Shift Commander and will not be conducted during the following hours: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Routine escorts are not to interfere with calls for service and can be approved by the on-duty commander.

FUNERAL ESCORTS

42.1.09 Requests for funeral escorts shall be coordinated through the Operations Division and shall be handled by the Public Safety Aides or patrol officers. When they are unavailable to provide the escort, a uniformed officer shall conduct the escort.

DRAFTED(awm) 01/03

APPROVED: 
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