

**St. Clair County**  
**System**  
Use of Lights and Sirens

Initial Date: February 2018

8-7

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***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 (Sections 257.603 and 257.653), the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code governs the driving of emergency vehicles. All St. Clair County EMS Agencies will abide by the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code. (The appropriate sections of the code are attached as a reference for this protocol.)
- 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. 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.**
- D. 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.