
Use of Emergency Lights and Sirens during Transport

Procedure

- A. **Michigan Motor Vehicle Code** (§257.603 and 257.653)
The Michigan Motor Vehicle Code governs the driving of emergency vehicles. All licensed life support vehicles will abide by the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.
- B. **Transporting a Patient**
- EMS units may transport patients using lights and sirens when:
 - 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
 - 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
 - Non-emergency patients will **NOT** be transported with the use of lights and siren.
- C. **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 be followed at all times.
- D. **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 Motor Vehicle Code.
- E. **Returning from the transport, returning to a service area**
- EMS units may **ONLY** utilize lights and sirens to return to their area **IF THEY ARE RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY CALL.**
 - 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 Michigan 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.