



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Undercover Vehicle Emergency Approach*

Number: 245

Effective Date: *December 2, 2004*

Revised Date:

Rescinds:

Dated:

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To provide undercover officers with guidelines that will allow them to utilize emergency equipment on their undercover vehicles in limited applications for specific situations. The purpose of the use of such equipment is to help ensure officer safety and to better control the environment of the field operation in which the use of this equipment is justified.

PROCEDURE

1. In order to allow the Department to authorize limited exemptions from certain traffic laws as permitted by statute, undercover vehicles will be designated as emergency vehicles. However, by this directive these vehicles will not enjoy all of those exemptions from state law that are necessary to otherwise allow Department designated emergency vehicles participation in emergency responses and / or pursuits. This directive is more restrictive than state law.
2. When vehicles are used in an approved undercover capacity by authorized personnel, the undercover vehicle may be used to approach a target while utilizing approved emergency equipment to safely affect an arrest and / or to better ensure the containment of a target.
3. When properly equipped with blue lights and siren, undercover cars may be used as emergency vehicles by activating the emergency equipment when it is deemed appropriate by circumstances specific to a particular operation. The use of this equipment will be restricted to situations that include using the

Page 2 of 2

vehicles to allow officers to move in and affect an arrest of a target, to move in to contain a situation in an undercover operation, and to allow officers to quickly intervene when an undercover operation has developed into a critical situation that threatens serious bodily injury or death to undercover police and / or their operatives. When these vehicles are used in such capacity, and emergency equipment is activated, they are authorized to do the following when it is necessary:

- A. Park or stand where it would otherwise be unlawful
- B. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
- C. Exceed the posted speed limit, while continuing to comply with restrictions outlined throughout existing Departmental procedure.
- D. Proceed past a red light or stop signal.

4. These exemptions do not relieve the driver of the emergency vehicles of their responsibility for exercising due caution and for showing regard for the safety of others. These exemptions also do not protect drivers from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others. Undercover vehicles will not be used to conduct traffic stops, engage in pursuits, or participate in emergency responses as defined elsewhere in existing Departmental procedure. Undercover vehicles also will not be used to aid operators of those vehicles in performing other routine law enforcement activity.