

# Cover and Response Codes

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## **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office that vehicles operated by members of the department, for whatever purpose, shall be operated at all times in a manner which does not unnecessarily endanger the safety of the public or police personnel.

## **Persons Affected**

All Sheriff's Office personnel

## **Directives Affected**

Supersedes BLEIS Operations Manual Section P-007: Code Responses

## **Definitions**

**Code 1** - Immediate response – Deputy needs a cover unit to respond without delay. The situation has the potential to become unstable/unsafe. Reasonable use of emergency equipment is permitted in order to reduce response time to enhance safety of the public or deputy.

**Code 2** – Urgent response – Deputy needs a cover unit or units urgently. The situation is unstable/unsafe and has the possibility to deteriorate quickly, or has already deteriorated. Emergency equipment should be used as needed to expedite response time to enhance safety of the public or deputy.

**Code 3** – Emergency response – Deputy needs help immediately. Imminent and/or serious risks to the safety of the public or deputy are present. Continuous operation of emergency equipment should be used to expedite response time to enhance safety of the public or deputy.

**Code 4** –No response – No assistance is needed. The deputy(s) on scene have adequate resources to handle the situation.

## **Code Use**

Cover codes can be upgraded or downgraded at any time by an on-scene deputy, depending on changes in circumstances.

There are times where a deputy is in a stable situation, but still requires an additional unit. In these circumstances, the deputy should radio "Code 1" and specify the request. ie; "Code 1 for a transport unit." or "Code 1 for traffic control." This lets the responding unit know that a routine response is appropriate.

Responding with emergency lights and/or siren does not relieve the deputy of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor does it protect the deputy from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others. The driver of an emergency vehicle shall comply with RCW 46.61.035.