
 Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board	<b>SECTION:</b> Land Ambulance
	<b>POLICY TITLE:</b> Excessive Speed/Emergency Warning Systems
<b>ORIGINAL DATE:</b> July, 2006	<b>POLICY AREA:</b> Vehicle, Equipment & Facilities
<b>REVISION DATE:</b> August, 2016	<b>POLICY NO:</b> LA – 6.6
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b> September, 2019	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> 

## Preamble

Drivers of emergency vehicles must ensure that common sense, sound judgement and defensive driving techniques are used during all aspects of an emergency response. The driver is responsible to be aware of his/her limitations in regards to the operation of the vehicle.

## Policy

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) ensures that emergency response is provided in compliance with the:

- a) *Ambulance Act R.S.O. 1990, c. A.19; as amended;*
- b) *Ontario Regulation 257/00 as amended;*
- c) *Patient Care and Transportation Standard, as amended;*
- d) *Ontario Ambulance Documentation Standards, as amended; and*
- e) *Highway Traffic Act, as amended.*

The RRDSSAB recognizes and complies with the *Highway Traffic Act* which permits an ambulance, in a true emergency, to exceed posted speed limits and to proceed through red traffic signals after making a full and complete stop. The driver of the emergency vehicle is at all times responsible for the safety of the public, the vehicle, and its occupants. Should the driver feel that an emergency or situation exists that warrants the use of speed in excess of the posted limit, he/she does so at his or her own risk.

## Procedure

1. The attending paramedic/EMA informs the driver of the condition of the patient. The driver determines the speed of the response, while ensuring the continued safety of the occupants of the vehicle and the public.

2. The driver of an emergency vehicle observes the posted speed limit, taking into consideration marginal fluctuations on all ambulance calls, except Code 3 & Code 4. On all non-emergency calls, all rules of the road under the *Highway Traffic Act of Ontario* must be obeyed.
3. On emergency calls, (Code 3 & 4), driving in excess of **30 kms/hr** above the posted speed limit will necessitate the submission of an *Excessive Speed Report*, by the Driver, to the Duty Officer. This report includes the call number, patient's condition, time of day, road, weather and traffic conditions, speed of vehicle, the route traveled, and the reason for the excessive speed. This *Excessive Speed Report* must be signed by the Driver and the Attendant. The Duty Officer will review the report in comparison to the Data Trans and ACR to determine appropriateness of the speed used for the response. If acceptable the report will be filed, if the speed utilized was deemed unacceptable, the driver may be subject to further training/education, or Policy *HR-3.3 Employee Conduct and Performance*.
4. On all Code 4 responses, the driver of the vehicle will ensure that at a minimum primary emergency lights are activated. The driver should also consider sirens in traffic situations.
5. The Deputy Chief(s) will download *Data Trans (e-tach)* information from all Land Ambulance vehicles on a monthly basis. A comparison of *Data Trans Speed Reports*, *Excessive Speed Reports* and *Call Reports* are completed monthly by the Deputy Chief(s). An *Excessive Speed Report* will be requested from the crew involved, when the available documentation does not support the registered speed.
6. The driver of an emergency vehicle entering an intersection on a red traffic signal ensures that all warning systems (lights & sirens) are activated, that the vehicle has made a full and complete stop, and that he/she may proceed through the intersection safely, prior to entering the intersection, as permitted by the *Highway Traffic Act*.
7. If a complaint is received regarding the conduct of an employee driving a vehicle, the Duty Officer requests a *Land Ambulance Incident Report* from the staff involved. The report will be reviewed, per *Policy LA-3.2: Incident Reports*.
8. An employee found to be driving excessive speeds and/or driving erratically, will be subject to *Policy HR-3.3 Employee Conduct and Performance*.