


NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE	CHAPTER <u>Enforcement Operations</u> STATEMENT NUMBER <u>5.57</u>
SUBJECT: USE OF EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND SIRENS IN DOC VEHICLES PROPONENT: <u>Christopher Kench, Director</u> <i>Name/Title</i> <u>Commissioner's Office 271-8016</u> <i>Office Phone #</i>	EFFECTIVE DATE <u>02/16/18</u> REVIEW DATE <u>02/16/20</u> SUPERSEDES PPD# <u>5.57</u> DATED <u>12/30/13</u>
ISSUING OFFICER:  Helen E. Hanks, Commissioner	DIRECTOR'S INITIALS: _____ DATE: _____ APPENDIX ATTACHED: YES _____ NO _____
REFERENCE NO: See reference section on last page of PPD.	

- I. PURPOSE:
To provide guidelines regarding the use of emergency blue lights and sirens by Department of Corrections staff in the performance of their duties.
- II. APPLICABILITY:
To all staff who operate NH DOC motor vehicles in an emergency mode, pursuant to NH RSA 265:8.
- III. POLICY:
DOC staff will not engage in motor vehicle pursuits. Pursuits will be referred to other law enforcement agencies.
- IV. PROCEDURES:
 - A. DOC vehicles are not specifically equipped or designed for pursuits. DOC staff will not engage in motor vehicle pursuits.
 - B. In accordance with RSA 265:8 (Attachment 1), DOC employees assigned as Transportation Officers, and perimeter patrol officers are authorized the use of blue emergency lights and sirens on DOC vehicles in the performance of their duties.
 - C. Prior to operating a DOC motor vehicle, all personnel will possess a valid NH operator's license and will complete the required defensive driving course.
 - D. The operator of a DOC motor vehicle is responsible for safety checks before driving on a public way.
 - E. Except in emergency situations, operators will be expected to obey all traffic laws.
 - F. Employees may disobey traffic laws when responding to an emergency situation provided they have activated the vehicle's blue lights and siren and provided they exercise reasonable care when responding. An emergency situation is one in which the speedy response of the employee is necessary for public safety.

REFERENCES:

Standards for the Administration of Correctional Agencies
Second Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions
Fourth Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Community Residential Services
Fourth Edition Standards

Standards for Adult Probation and Parole Field Services
Third Edition Standards

Other

RSA 265:8 Emergency Vehicles

KENCH/lb

Attachments