



# TOWN POLICY

## ADMINISTRATION POLICY:

# Peace Officer Emergency Response

**DEPARTMENT:** Municipal Enforcement

**POLICY NUMBER:** ME-050

**APPROVAL:**   
APPROVED BY CAO  
Jeff Shaw

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 22, 2016

**SUPERSEDES:** Policy #P-50

**UP FOR REVIEW:** December 19, 2021

### Policy Statement:

The Town of Cardston is granted authority by the Province of Alberta for duly appointed Community Peace Officers to respond to certain situations utilizing emergency lights and sirens. This authority is limited to the powers identified in the Community Peace Officer Appointments issued by the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General. Community Peace Officers may only provide emergency response if they have successfully passed an approved Emergency Vehicle Operations course, and have applied to the Director of Law Enforcement to have their appointment amended to include this authority. The Town of Cardston Peace Officers are authorized to respond to certain situations utilizing lights and sirens subject to the conditions set out in this policy.

### The purpose of this policy is to:

Meet the requirements set out by the Peace Officer Act, Regulations and Policy to enable Town of Cardston Peace Officer(s) access to Emergency Response authorities.

### Guidelines/Procedures:

- 1) In this policy:
  - (a) "*Emergency Response*" means the use of lights and sirens to respond to a situation.
  - (b) "*Pursuits*" occur when a Peace Officer follows a vehicle with the intent to stop or identify the vehicle driver, and the driver, being aware of the Peace Officer's actions, fails to stop and the driver initiates evasive action or ignores directions to stop/avoid apprehension.
  - (c) "*Closing the distance*" or "*Catch up situations*" are an emergency response by a Peace Officer to close the distance on a suspected violator to further law enforcement. These are not considered pursuits unless some overt action by the suspected offender suggests an attempt to avoid apprehension.
- 2) Emergency responses by The Town of Cardston Community Peace Officers are limited to:
  - (a) A collision when a Community Peace Officer is the closest emergency vehicle and/or the Peace Officer is requested to attend by Police Agency of Jurisdiction.





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- (b) Providing backup to Police or Peace Officer where there is reasonable belief that the Officer is in serious danger and the Community Peace Officer may be the closest assistance available.
  - (c) Attending a fire or medical situation at the request of the Fire or EMS Department. Attendance at fires or medical calls will not be standard practices and must be requested by the Fire or EMS Departments involved.
  - (d) An emergent situation if required by a Police Service to attend in an emergency response situation.
  - (e) An emergent situation which may result in activation of the The Town of Cardston Emergency Response Plan.
- 3) The Town of Cardston Peace Officers will not engage in pursuits and will contact the responsible Police agency in the event a vehicle fails to stop when so directed.
  - 4) The Town of Cardston Peace Officers may employ closing the distance or catch up techniques when there is limited risk to the public and there is a reasonable likelihood for apprehension of the suspected offender.
  - 5) The Town of Cardston Peace Officers will not participate in or use spike belt deployment or road blocks.
  - 6) All motor vehicle collisions resulting from emergency vehicle responses will be reported to the Director of Law Enforcement of the Public Security Division of the Solicitor General and Public Security, for the Province of Alberta, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer or designate for The Town of Cardston.

