

I've noticed that I hear fewer ambulance sirens in San Luis Obispo than I do in Bakersfield. I was wondering if your siren policy was different. There has been a lot of discussion about this topic the past couple of years in your industry, and there have been recent changes to ambulance siren policies in some areas. Would you please answer a couple of questions for me?

1. When responding to Priority 1 calls, do you always keep the siren on the entire trip, or do you only turn it on as needed?

2. When transporting Priority 1 calls to the hospital, in what percentage of trips do you use the siren?

Thank you for your assistance.

*Hi Anthony,*

*Thanks for your inquiry.*

*We only use the siren on an 'as needed' basis. We try to be cognizant of our siren use, but with safety in mind. You may hear more sirens during the day due to increased traffic, but at night we may respond lights only for the entirety of the response. Of course every response is different, but that is our philosophy.*

*Our transports to hospitals, using lights and sirens are between 5-7% depending on the location within the community. The communities in SLO County vary so much regarding patient age, trauma potential, etc., which explains the range.*

*I hope that this has been helpful.*

*Regards,*

*Joe Piedalue  
Operations Director*