

# SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ORDER

**DATE/TIME:** April 21, 2023 1315 HOURS  
**NUMBER:** OR 23-09  
**SUBJECT:** Hi-Lo Audible Warning System  
**COST CENTER:** 1914131213  
**SCOPE:** ALL SWORN MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT  
**DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE AFFECTED:** DP [1.13](#) and [8.20](#)

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**Portions of this document are deemed by the San Diego Police Department to be records of security procedures and are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), Government Code Section 7923.600**

The San Diego Police Department has started the implementation process of the Hi-Lo Audible Warning (HLAW) system. On May 4, 2023, a public awareness campaign regarding the system will start with a scheduled county-wide press conference.

This system will be part of the siren/light control panel in patrol vehicles with either the 17-button Smart-Controller or the 17-button Pathfinder Controller. A new button labeled “Hi-Lo” will be replacing the current button labeled, “RADIO.”

The system may be used to alert the community during emergency evacuation orders per 27002 CVC. The HLAW is an indicator to people that they are in imminent danger and conveys the need to evacuate immediately. Use for any purpose, other than the prescribed evacuation orders, is strictly prohibited. Indiscriminate use of the HLAW may reduce the public’s awareness of the specific sound and its purpose. While using HLAW, emergency lights should be activated to assist in warning of danger.

**Effective immediately**, the San Diego Police Department will have two versions of the system operational in the field.

- a. Vehicles containing the newer “Pathfinder” lights and siren control system utilize a repeating hi/low sound with intermittent messaging, which states, “This is the San Diego Police Department. This area is under evacuation order. Please evacuate immediately. Failure to evacuate could result in a loss of life,” in both English and Spanish.
- b. Vehicles containing the older “Smart-Controller” lights and siren control system utilize a repeating hi/low sound with no messaging. This system will be phased out over time as vehicles with the newer “Pathfinder” control system are placed into operation.

The HLAW shall not be used while driving Code-3 (per 27002 CVC) as it is not legally considered a siren. All traffic laws must be obeyed while using the HLAW. If a Code-3

response becomes necessary, use of the HLAW shall be discontinued. **“Wail” or “Yelp” are the only approved Code-3 sirens.**

## TRAINING

To understand how to use the Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS), all sworn members of the Department shall view the updated ***“Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS) Training Video”***, through their individual Success Factors account. To access the training, do the following:

1. Using the Google Chrome browser, log onto Success Factors via [cityofsandiego.okta.com](https://cityofsandiego.okta.com).
2. At the first OKTA screen, select the “SuccessFactors” (Production) tile to access the application and then select the “My Learning” tile to access the learning module.
3. Make sure you see the word “Find Learning” in the upper left corner of the screen. There, you will see a box that contains a search line which reads, “What do you want to LEARN today?” In that search box, type ***“Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS) Training Video”*** (note the spacing in the title).
4. A list of courses will show up on your screen. Select “Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS) Training Video” and then click on “Start Course” in the lower left corner of the course’s tile.
5. On the next screen, there will be a link in blue font; “Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS) Training Video.”
6. Click on ***“Hi-Lo Audible Warning System (HLAWS) Training Video”***. The system will ask if you want to “Open” or “Save” the application. Click “Open.” The video may take a few minutes to load before it plays automatically. At the conclusion of watching the video, you must click “Agree” at the bottom of the screen to ensure you receive credit for viewing the video.

**This learning shall be completed by May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Any questions regarding HLAWS, please contact the Critical Incident Management Unit.

Any questions regarding SuccessFactors, please contact In-Service Training, **(Deleted – records of security)**.

Procedures 1.13 (EVOC) and 8.20 (Evacuations) are being amended to reflect the listed changes.

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Please read at squad conferences and give a copy to all personnel.