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***PURPOSE***

Emergency vehicle drivers must utilize emergency lights and sirens while responding to the scene of an emergency, and while parked and operating in the roadway at the scene of an emergency.

***OBJECTIVE***

This guideline is intended to provide personnel with guidelines that define when emergency lights and sirens are to be used by emergency vehicles.

***SCOPE***

All Personnel

**EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND AUDIBLE WARNING DEVICES**

Emergency lights and audible warning devices shall be used when fire department vehicles are responding in an emergency mode. Both warning lights and audible devices must be operated in order to meet the legal definition of an authorized emergency vehicle.

Emergency lights shall be used at all times when fire department vehicles are operating in an emergency response mode. Audible warning devices (siren and/or horn) shall be used as necessary to warn other drivers and pedestrians of the approach of an emergency vehicle and request the right-of-way. Audible warning devices shall be used in moderation when they are not required to provide warning (light traffic or open road situations).

Emergency lights and audible warning devices shall not be used when a vehicle is operating in a non-emergency mode.

**PARKED VEHICLES**

Emergency lights shall be operating when fire department vehicles are stopped and/or operating in the roadway, or anytime the emergency vehicle creates a traffic hazard at the scene of an emergency.

If possible, white emergency lights and headlight flashers shall be turned off while parked at an emergency, as flashing bright headlights can blind drivers of oncoming vehicles. This may prevent those drivers from seeing wrecked vehicles, personnel, equipment, etc. that may be actually in or close to the roadway.