

EMERGENCY RESPONSE, LIGHT AND SIREN USAGE PERMIT PROCESS

Purpose:

To provide clear and concise guidelines on emergency response in privately owned, as well as district owned vehicles.

Personal Owned Vehicles:

Any member wanting to install a light and siren will have to obtain a packet from a member of the safety committee. This packet will contain the information needed to install a light and siren in any personal vehicle. The member shall complete the information in the packet as follows: Form 1300.4-1 is the Light and Siren Checklist. All items on the checklist need to be completed. The member must sign they have received the copy of KRS 189.910 to 189.950 and understand it. Form 1300.4-2 is the Light and Siren Safety Checklist. A member of the safety committee will complete an inspection of the member's vehicle using this form. Form 1300.4-3 is the Light and Siren Permit. After all items on both checklists have been completed successfully the permit will be completed and presented to the Fire Chief for his approval.

All members will be expected to practice the same safety principles in their personal vehicles as in District owned vehicles. Members should only use light and siren when responding to emergencies that they are needed at the fire station. Members should not respond in emergency fashion to calls that the on duty career staff is capable of handling. Complaints about members responding will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Misuse or abuse of light and siren privileges will result in the permit being revoked. Spot checks to check for vehicle safety and insurance can be conducted at any time. All light and siren permits will expire on June 30 of the current year and the member will have to apply for a new permit. Any changes made to already approved lighting packages will need to be approved by a member of the safety committee.

District Owned Vehicles:

- A. Career personnel must be 18 (eighteen) years of age and volunteer personnel must be 21 (twenty-one) years of age to drive any district owned vehicle.
- B. District vehicles shall only be operated by personnel who have successfully completed an approved driver training program, or by students who are under the supervision of a qualified member.
- C. Members driving district vehicles must have a valid operator's license.
- D. Vehicles shall not move until all persons are seated in approved riding positions and secured with seat belts. Riding on apparatus in any other position is prohibited.

- E. Members operating vehicles shall be directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of the vehicle under all conditions. When the member is under direct supervision of an officer, that officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the member driving.
- F. All personnel responding in an emergency manner shall do so with due regard and caution for all other motorists, as well as pedestrians.
- G. During emergency response, members driving shall bring their vehicle to a complete stop for any of the following:
 - 1. When directed by a law enforcement officer.
 - 2. Red traffic lights.
 - 3. Stop signs.
 - 4. Negative right-of-way intersections.
 - 5. Blind intersections.
 - 6. When any intersection hazards are present.
 - 7. Stopped school bus with flashing warning lights.
- H. Personnel shall only proceed on streets or roadways designed for motor vehicle traffic. Driving across parking lots or corner lots in an effort to reduce response time should be avoided.
- I. Any member who has a current DUI or DWI shall not be permitted to operate under emergency conditions.

VIOLATION OF POLICY:

- A. All personnel of the district are expected to comply with the provisions of this policy, state, federal and local laws.
- B. Wrongful and/or willful violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the loss of the light and siren permit, suspension and/or termination from the district.
- C. All complaints received about the response mode of personnel will be investigated thoroughly and disciplinary action may be taken.
- D. Any/all accidents shall be reported to a Chief Officer or Company Officer immediately, or as soon as feasible.
- E. An annual review of each members driving record shall be done by the Division of Drivers Licensing.
- F. Any member who has 3 or more current violations shall not be permitted to operate under emergency conditions.
- G. Members are required to report any and all moving violations/infractions to the Chief and/or Assistant Chief within 72 hours of the occurrence, failure to do so may result in an immediate suspension until such time that the Board of Trustees reviews the violation/infraction. All disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees must follow SOG #500.6, Correction Action/Disciplinary Process.

FORM #1300.4-1 Light & Siren Permit

FORM #1300.4-2 Light & Siren Permit Safety Checklist