

<b>SUBJECT:</b> WARNING DEVICES	<b>SECTION:</b> 201.05
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## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for use of warning devices on Fire Department emergency vehicles.

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## POLICY

The Fire Department shall utilize warning devices on emergency vehicles in accordance with those criteria established under the Ohio Revised Code. (See `Authority`.)

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## AUTHORITY

Ohio Revised Code authorizes the use of red lights and sirens on Fire Department vehicles during response to emergency situations. Emergency situations are defined as those situations where life and/or property are directly endangered.

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## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

- A. **EMERGENCY VEHICLES:** Shall be operated on an emergency basis only when all warning devices are in continuous operation.
- B. **RED LIGHTS:** Red lights on Fire Department apparatus shall be kept in operation while responding to alarms or when necessary while working at emergencies.
- C. **SIREN:** The siren shall be operated through its full range of sound (both high and low) during emergency responses. Discretion may be used while responding on streets void of traffic, late at night, or while on final approach to an emergency scene where other emergency vehicles are converging.
- D. **HEADLIGHTS:** Apparatus headlights shall be kept in operation during all emergency responses day or night and when necessary, while working at emergencies.
- E. **AIR-HORN:** May be used in connection with the siren being sure that siren is operated from the high to low pitched sound. (The air horn is not to be used in a manner which will exclude the siren.)

- F. FREEWAYS: Warning lights will be used on all expressway responses.

## **NON-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

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- A. Vehicles responding to non-emergency type incidents, such as public assists, shall not use red lights and siren.
- B. Siren will not be used to back into apparatus bay.
- C. During station tours, apparatus demonstrations, etc., red lights and sirens can be used as part of the demonstrations as long as it is determined to be safe and not confusing to adjacent motorists and citizens.
- D. Members should use discretion (in order to avoid public confusion) when discontinuing the use of warning devices after being cancelled from an emergency response.
- E. When the apparatus is parked on a public street, the four-way amber flashers and/or arrow stick, if equipped, may be utilized to warn passing motorists of its presence.
- F. When responding from stations located in residential areas and/or when responding through residential areas during the night time or early morning hours, care must be taken to avoid excessive use of apparatus sirens.

## **REFERENCES**

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Ohio Revised Code §4511