

BURLINGTON TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE #19

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT ON PERSONAL VEHICLES

Purpose: To provide a guide to help all members to properly equip their personal vehicles and conduct emergency response driving in a safe manner.

Scope: To provide a guideline to operate personal vehicles equipped with emergency lighting in accordance with the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300.

1. Installation of lights and sirens on personal vehicles will be with the following conditions:
 - a. After six months of satisfactory service.
 - b. After Michigan Firefighter Training Council certification as a Firefighter or licensed as a medical responder (MFR, EMT, or Paramedic).
 - c. Annual Certification of an inspection of the members vehicle (attachment 1).
 - d. Approval of the Fire Chief.
2. Equipment must meet all standards set forth in the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300.
3. The use of lights and siren on personal vehicles are allowed only during the following conditions:
 - e. You are responding to a toned alarm.
 - f. You are responding to the initial page, not a delayed response.
 - g. You have no minors in the personal vehicle.
 - h. You are within fifteen miles of the fire station when the page is received.
4. Fire Department personnel shall, at all times, operate motor vehicles in accordance with P.A. 300, 1949 as amended (attachment 2).
5. No Fire Department personnel shall, at any time, operate a motor vehicle at such a rate of speed, or in a manner, as to cause the person to lose control of the operation and/or direction of the vehicle, or endanger the public.
6. You must respond in a safe manner, taking into account weather conditions and the safety of other vehicles on the road.
7. If you are approaching a school bus with warning signals activated, emergency lights and sirens shall be turned off and you will wait until all the children are off the school bus. Once the warning signals of the school bus are turned off you may proceed with lights and siren.

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8. Lights may be used at a crash scene if requested by a Police Officer or in the event that you come upon a crash that the department has not been dispatched to.
9. Lights and sirens will not be utilized during a Storm Warning, Alarm Reduction, or Non-Emergency page.
10. Do not run lights without siren or vice versa when responding to a toned alarm.
11. The Fire Chief, at any time, may require an inspection of personal vehicles.
12. The Fire Chief, in the event of an accident or unsafe driving practice, may suspend or revoke a driver's certification. A recertification may be granted after a review of the incident has been completed.
13. In the event of a vehicle crash involving a member of the Burlington Twp. Fire Department, the driver shall stop and render aid and call for advanced medical aid if required. The driver shall call out of service and shall remain at the crash location until the police complete their investigation and release the driver.