

**TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHAPTER 2: STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

Part 1: Response Guidelines

Subject: Private Vehicles as Emergency Vehicles

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Section: 2-1-3

Effective Date: 01-01-96

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- 3.01 Purpose. To provide the minimum standard to the Wisconsin Authorized Emergency Vehicle Act 142.
- 3.02 Goal. To pertain to all privately owned vehicles authorized by the Department as Emergency Vehicles for Township Fire Department, Inc.
- 3.03 Definition.
- A) 340.01(3)(d) Authorized Emergency Vehicle.
 - 1. "Privately owned motor vehicles being used by deputy state fire marshals or by personnel of a full-time or part-time fire department or by members of a volunteer fire department while en route to a fire or on an emergency call pursuant to orders of their chief or other commanding officer."
 - B) 340.01(3)(dm)(1) Authorized Emergency Vehicle.
 - 1. "Designated or authorized by an ambulance service or rescue squad chief in writing annually."
- 3.04 Rules of the Road.
- A) 346.02(1) Rules of the Road for Emergency Vehicles.
 - 1. The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency callor when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in subs (2) to (5).
 - B) 346.03 (2) Rules of the Road for Emergency Vehicles.
 - 1. The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may:
 - a) Stop, stand or park, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter;

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- b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- c) Exceed the speed limit;
- d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

C) 346.03(3) Rules of the Road for Emergency Vehicles.

- 1. The exemption granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by sub (2) (a) applies only when the operator of the vehicle is giving visual signal by means of at least one flashing, oscillating or rotating red light..... The exemptions granted by sub (2) (b), (c) and (d) apply only when the operator of the emergency vehicle is giving both such visual signals and also an audible signal by means of a siren or exhaust whistle,

D) 346.03(5) Rules of the Road for Emergency Vehicles.

- 1. The exemptions granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by this section do not relieve such operator from the duty to drive with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons nor do they protect such operator from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

E) 346.57(2) Speed Restrictions.

- 1. Reasonable and prudent limit. No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. The speed of a vehicle shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any object, person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and using due care.

F) 346.57 (3) Speed Restrictions.

- 1. Conditions requiring reduced speed. The operator of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of sub. (2), drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hillcrest, when

traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, when passing school children, highway construction or maintenance workers or other pedestrians, and when special hazard exists with regard to other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

G) 347.25 (1) Warning Lamps on Emergency Vehicles.

1. Except as provided in subs.(1m)(a), (1r) and (1s), an authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one or more flashing, oscillating or rotating red lights, except that ambulances and fire department equipment may be equipped with red or red and white lights, and shall be so equipped when the operator thereof is exercising the privileges granted by s.346.03. *The lights shall be so designed and mounted as to be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 500 feet both during normal sunlight and during hours of darkness. No operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may use the warning lights except when responding to an emergency call, when responding to but not returning from a fire alarm or when necessarily parked on a highway in a position which is likely to be hazardous to traffic using the highway.

H) 347.25(1r)(b) Warning Lamps on Emergency Vehicles.

1. A vehicle of a fire department under s. 340.01(3)(c) may be equipped so that the high beams of its headlamps pulsate or flash alternately at a rate of 70 to 90 pulses or flashes per minute. The pulsating or flashing headlamps may be used only when the warning lamps authorized under sub (1) are in use.

I) 347.38(4) Horns and Warning Devices.

1. An authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, but such siren shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call....

3.05 Non-Fire Department Personnel as Passengers.

- A) When an officer is responding to an emergency with non fire department personnel in care (i.e. family members, friends, etc.) the response shall be Code I.