

# **EMERGENCY LIGHTS**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
James E. McGreevey  
*Governor*



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**  
Susan Bass Levin, *Commissioner*

**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**  
Lawrence Petrillo, *Director*



## EMERGENCY LIGHTS

### BLUE LIGHTS

#### **39:3-54.7. Member of a volunteer fire company or first aid or rescue squad: emergency warning lights on motor vehicle**

An active member in good standing of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad recognized by and rendering service in any municipality may display on a motor vehicle owned by him or by a member of his household an emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act.

#### **39:3-54.8. Time of operation**

Emergency warning lights may be operated only while the vehicle is being used in answering a fire or emergency call.

#### **39:3-54.9. Specifications**

Emergency warning lights shall be temporarily attached, removable lights of the flashing or revolving type not more than 7.5 inches in diameter, equipped with a blue lens and a lamp of not more than 51 candlepower and shall be controlled by a switch installed inside the vehicle.

#### **39:3-54.10. Placement on motor vehicle**

No more than two emergency warning lights shall be installed on a vehicle. If one light is used it shall be installed in the center of the roof of the car, or on the left windshield column in a position where a spotlight is normally located, or on the front of the vehicle so that the top of the warning light is no higher than the top of the vehicle's headlights. If two lights are used they may be placed on the windshield columns on each side of the vehicle where spotlights are normally located, or on either side of the roof at the front of the vehicle directly back of the top of the windshield. Under no circumstances may one light be placed on the roof and one on the windshield column in the spotlight position.

#### **39:3-54.11. Identification cards; issuance; use**

The Director of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable identification cards bearing the signature of the Director which, upon request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire company or first aid or rescue squad on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Director, shall be forwarded to said mayor or chief executive officer, to be countersigned and issued by said mayor or chief executive officer to the members in good standing of such volunteer fire company, or a first aid or rescue squad. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section shall be considered permits to display and operate emergency warning lights as provided for in this act, and no emergency warning light shall be mounted prior to the issuance of such identification cards. Each member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad must carry such identification card while an emergency warning light or lights are displayed on his vehicle.

#### **39:3-54.12. Rights of motor vehicle with light in operation**

Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid or rescue squad any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this State, provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle

of any member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad displaying emergency warning lights in the same manner as is provided for authorized emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S. 39:4-92.

**39:3-54.13. Violations; penalty**

Any person authorized to display emergency warning lights pursuant to this act who willfully displays or uses such emergency warning lights in violation of the provisions of this act, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his privilege to display such emergency warning lights may be suspended or revoked by the Director of Motor Vehicles.

**RED LIGHTS**

**39:3-54.15. Red emergency warning lights on motor vehicles owned by active volunteer fire chief or first assistant chief**

An active chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company recognized by and rendering service in any municipality may display on a motor vehicle owned by him and registered in his name a red emergency warning light, or lights, a siren, or both, as prescribed in this act. The size and type of lights and siren, and the location of their controls, shall be determined by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

These laws permit both chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies to display a red emergency warning light or lights, a siren, or both on a motor vehicle owned and registered by them.

They contain specifications for mounting lights and sirens and state that neither the lights nor the sirens shall be operated unless the vehicle is being used by the chief or first assistant chief to answer a fire or emergency call.

The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to determine the size and the type of lights and sirens that can be used and the location of their controls. The Director also prepares identification cards, which will authorize chiefs and assistant chiefs to display lights and sirens. These cards are signed by the director and issued and countersigned by the mayor or chief executive officer of the municipality served by the chief or first assistant chief.

There are no special privileges or exemptions to chiefs or first assistant chiefs using the lights or sirens that are denied to other drivers; however, the laws do require other drivers to yield the right of way to the vehicle of a chief or first assistant chief displaying the lights.

For a violation of the laws a penalty of not more than \$50.00 would be imposed. A violator also would lose the privilege to display the lights or siren.

**39:3-54.16. Placement of red emergency warning lights**

All red emergency lights shall be mounted on the exterior of the motor vehicle. No more than two red emergency warning lights shall be installed on a vehicle. If one light is used it shall be installed in the center of the roof of the vehicle, or on the left windshield column in a position where a spotlight is normally located. If two lights are used they may be placed on the windshield columns on each side of the vehicle where spotlights are normally mounted, or on either side of the roof at the front of the vehicle directly back of the top of the windshield. Under no circumstances may one light be placed on the roof and one on the windshield column in the spotlight position. They shall be operated only while the vehicle is being used by the registered owner chief or first assistant chief in answering a fire or emergency call.

**39:3-54.17. Placement of sirens**

All sirens shall be mounted under the hood of the motor vehicle and shall be operated only while the vehicle is being used by the registered owner chief or first assistant chief in answering a fire or emergency call.

**39:3-54.18. Identification cards for chief or first assistant chief; issuance; purpose**

The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable identification cards bearing the signature of the director, which, upon request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Director, shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief executive officer to be countersigned and issued by the mayor or chief executive officer to the chief or first assistant chief of the volunteer fire company. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section shall be considered permits to display and operate red emergency warning lights, sirens, or both, as provided for in this act, and no lights or sirens shall be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification cards. Each chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company shall carry the identification card while red emergency warning lights, or sirens, or both, are displayed on his vehicle.

**39:3-54.19. Operation of motor vehicles with red emergency warning lights or sirens; yielding right of way**

This act shall not grant to any chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and persons displaying red emergency warning lights, sirens, or both, shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey the traffic laws of this State, provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle of any chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company displaying red emergency warning lights, sirens, or both, in the same manner as is provided for authorized emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S. 39:4-92.

**39:3-54.20. Unlawful use of red emergency warning lights or sirens; penalty**

Any person authorized to display red emergency warning lights, sirens, or both, pursuant to this act, who willfully displays or uses the lights or sirens in violation of the provisions of this act shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his privilege to display the lights or sirens may be suspended or revoked by the Director of Motor Vehicles.