

# **SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT**

## **Operational Guide**

**SUBJECT:** Responding to Alarms in privately owned vehicles)

O.G. NUMBER:

**PURPOSE:** To describe the issues related to Responding to Alarms in privately owned vehicles)

Original Date: 5/10/98

Revision Date:

### **Responding to Alarms (Privately Owned Vehicles)**

When responding to the station for an alarm while operating a privately owned vehicle (POV) all members are reminded that they are to follow the same traffic regulations as any other vehicle on the road, including speed, stopping, passing, etc.

The use of flashers, flashing headlights, and/or horns on a POV are discouraged by the Sublimity Fire District. These often are misunderstood by other drivers since they are not a clear indication of your intentions and may agitate drivers.

The Fire Chief may issue a warning light for use in POV's to assist in the SAFE/expedient response of a member.

To qualify the member must be:

21 years of age;

Drivers record for past three years must not have any;  
moving violations;  
chargeable accidents

and must have been active with the Sublimity Fire District for at least 12 months

### **PROCEDURE**

1. Members who desire the use of a warning light during response must forward a written request to the Fire Chief.

a. The request should include a description of the circumstances when the light will be used, why it is needed, and a description of the vehicle the light will be used in (Make, Model, Year and License number).

2. The Fire Chief will review the request and the members driving record. The Fire Chief will either deny the request or forward it for review at an officers meeting.

3. If approved at the officers meeting, the chief will issue a written permit along with a warning light to the requester.

4. The permit will expire in six months and prior to reissuing, the Chief will review the past six months to assure no abuse in the use of the light occurred and that no complaints relative to the operation of the members POV during response have been lodged. In addition the driving record will be reviewed.

5. Upon the Chiefs approval the permit will be reissued for a two year period at which time review and re-issue or denial may occur.

Members who have been issued a permit are again reminded that they are to comply with all traffic regulations when using the permitted light, and may be subject to discipline in the event of any abuse or violation. Warning lights remain property of the fire district and are returnable upon request, termination or of such circumstance.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WARNING LIGHT IS TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER DRIVERS THAT YOU ARE A FIREFIGHTER RESPONDING TO AN ALARM AND ASK THAT THEY PERMIT YOU TO CONTINUE UNINHIBITED.

THEY ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO COMPLY AND MEMBERS MAY BRING DISCREDIT TO THE FIRE DISTRICT IN ANY OCCASION OF MISUSE. THIS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

*Oregon Revised Statute*

*818.250 Permit for fire company warning lights. The governing body of a rural fire protection district or of a municipal fire department may issue written authorization for the use of fire company warning lights on vehicles that are used while driving to a fire station or fire location in response to a fire alarm. Written authorization issued under this section shall comply with all of the following:*

*(1) Written authorization may be issued only to authorize use of the warning lights on any vehicle, whether publicly or privately owned, if used by:*

*(a) A fire chief, assistant fire chief or volunteer firefighter selected by the board of directors of a rural fire protection district organized under ORS chapter 478; or*

*(b) Any person authorized to serve as fire chief, assistant fire chief or volunteer firefighter by the governing body of any municipal fire department.*

*(2) Any lights authorized under this section must be and remain the property of the rural fire protection district or municipality involved.*

*<1983 c.338 s540; 1985 c.16 s277>*