

**TOWN OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SECTION: Apparatus Operations
SUBJECT: Warning Devices
REVISED: 7/2013

PURPOSE:

To establish the procedures, and criteria for use of warning devices on fire vehicles. All Town of Watertown Fire District apparatus will meet the NFPA standards for warning devices on apparatus.

POLICY:

The fire department shall utilize warning devices on emergency vehicles in accordance with those criteria established under New York State Vehicle Code, and NFPA 1500. When apparatus is parked on the street in the non-emergency mode the four-way flashers should be used to warn passing motorists of its presence

AUTHORITY:

New York State authorizes the use of warning lights and sirens of fire department vehicles during responses to true emergency situations. Emergency situations are defined as those situations where life and/or property are directly endangered.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS: (priority one responses)

- A. Emergency vehicles shall be operated on an emergency basis only when all warning devices are in continuous operation.
- B. Warning lights on fire department apparatus shall be kept in operation while responding to alarms or when necessary while working at emergency scenes, and the tone changed 150 feet from intersections.
- D. Apparatus headlights shall be kept in operation during all emergency responses day or night, and when necessary while working at emergencies.
- E. Air horns may be used in connection with the siren (the air horns are not to be used in a manner which will exclude the siren).
- F. All fire department vehicles will stop all marked intersections either by a stop sign or a red traffic light.
- G. Warning lights and/or siren will not be used when returning to the station from fire incidents

NON-EMERGENCY OPERATION: (priority two responses)

- A. Vehicles responding to non-emergency type incidents, such as standby calls, public assist calls or calls defined as priority two by department officers or first arriving units.
- B. Priority two responses are without warning lights and sirens, obeying all traffic laws.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all apparatus drivers to adhere to the guidelines set forth.