



Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Administrative Policy	
Subject:	POV's
Reference Number:	FIRE 02-019
Effective Date:	27-Oct-15
Last Revision Date:	5-Feb-22
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

Purpose:

To establish guidelines governing the use of a courtesy/warning light and response in privately owned vehicles (POVs) responding to an incident.

Policy:

Members must be above age 18, not on probation, and the vehicle titled in their name. Installation and use of warning lights on privately owned vehicles must be in accordance with Virginia State Code § 46.2-1024. An authorized driver may use colored warning lights on privately owned vehicles to request the right of way when responding to emergency incidents. The use of a courtesy/warning light does not provide any special privileges or exemptions to traffic laws. Other drivers are not required to yield the right of way to a vehicle that has a courtesy light in operation. The only purpose of the warning light is to request that other drivers yield the right of way. The POV driver is required to comply with all traffic laws.

§ 46.2-1024. Flashing or steady-burning red or red and white warning lights.

Any member of a fire department, volunteer fire company, or volunteer emergency medical services agency and any police chaplain may equip one vehicle owned by him with no more than two flashing or steady-burning red or red and white combination warning light units of types approved by the Superintendent. Warning light units permitted by this section shall be lit only when answering emergency calls. A vehicle equipped with warning light units as authorized in this section shall be operated by a police chaplain only if he has successfully completed a course of training in the safe operation of a motor vehicle under emergency conditions and a certificate attesting to such successful completion, signed by the course instructor, is carried at all times in the vehicle when operated by the police chaplain to whom the certificate applies.

When responding in a POV you are not allowed to take any traffic exemptions. In addition, you are not allowed to speed, tailgate, run stop signs/lights or pass a vehicle that

does not pull to the side to allow you to go by. In other words, you must obey ALL traffic laws. Aggressive driving will not be tolerated.

Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to pass a stopped school bus loading or discharging its passengers whether in a POV or any emergency vehicle.

When responding, seat belts shall be used and there shall be no use of technology devices, e.g. cell phone for calls or texting while the vehicle is in motion.

The vehicle shall be licensed to the member, fully insured, and display a current state inspection decal.