



Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Operating Guideline	
Subject:	POV's
Reference Number:	FIRE 02-019
Effective Date:	27-Oct-15
Last Revision Date:	22-Jun-16
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. To ensure the safety of its members, the authorization for use of a courtesy/warning light must be approved by the department chief. Installation and use of warning lights on privately owned vehicles must be in accordance with state laws and regulations. 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 lights of types approved by the Superintendent. Warning lights permitted by this section shall be lit only when answering emergency calls.

When responding in a POV you are not allowed to take any traffic exceptions. This means 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 eg, Cell phone for calls or texting while the vehicle is in motion.

The vehicle shall be fully legal with a current state inspection.