

**PALMYRA POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER**

G.O. 3-8-2016

**Section: THREE
Chapter: EIGHT**

SUBJECT: Use of Police Vehicle Emergency Equipment
ISSUE DATE: 05-25-16
REFERENCE: NYSA 39.1, 41.2, 43.1

I. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Palmyra Police Department to set guidelines pertaining to the operation and use of police vehicle emergency equipment. Personnel are reminded that that under no circumstances are police vehicles, emergency warning devices or equipment to be used in a reckless manner. Although operators of emergency vehicles are exempt from provisions of the N.Y.S. vehicle and traffic law, they are civilly liable for any damages resulting in the reckless operation of that vehicle.

II. PROCEDURE:

The following describes authorized use of police vehicle emergency equipment:

A. EMERGENCY LIGHTS shall be used as a visual warning:

1. When responding to an emergency, such as:
 - a. A life-threatening situation
 - b. A serious crime in progress
 - c. A high priority incident requiring immediate police action
 - d. An emergency escort by police (VIP's, critically injured persons, etc.)
2. At traffic incidents, such as:
 - a. To signal/stop violators
 - b. To provide protection at a traffic accident.
3. Caution should be exercised when using emergency lights as they may blind and/or distract motorists.

B. THE SIREN shall be used as an audible warning to others:

1. When responding to an emergency, such as those listed in Section II-A;
2. To signal a violator
3. To signal/warn motorists/public

C. HAZARD WARNING LIGHTS (4 WAY FLASHERS) may be utilized as needed.

D. P.A. SYSTEM may be utilized to:

1. Make emergency public announcements
2. Order criminal suspects from vehicles/buildings, etc.
3. Broadcast information to large groups.

- E. ALLEY LIGHTS may be used to provide illumination:
1. When inspecting buildings, alleys, vehicles etc.
 2. At roadside traffic incidents.
 3. Remember to use caution when using alley lights as they may blind and/or distract motorists.
- F. TAKEDOWN LIGHTS may be utilized for:
1. Illuminating the interior of a vehicle to enhance the officer's safety during a vehicle stop.
 2. To provide emergency illumination.
 3. Caution should be used when using takedown lights as they may blind and/or distract motorists.
- G. VEHICLE SPOTLIGHT may be used to provide illumination as described in Section II-E and Section II-F but use with caution to avoid blinding and/or distracting motorist.
- H. ROAD FLARES shall be used to provide a visual warning:
1. At the scene of roadway incidents, such as:
 - a. Traffic accidents
 - b. Disabled vehicles
 - c. Hazardous road conditions
 - d. Temporary road closures
 - e. Power lines down
 2. Use flares in areas that give ample warning of upcoming hazard.
 3. Officers need to use extreme caution when using flares, and to be aware of the following:
 - a. When lighting flares follow the manufacture's instruction, being cautious not to get burned by the hot debris from the flare;
 - b. Using only where they will not start a fire;
 - c. Remove any debris that may be hazardous to motorists from the roadway before clearing a scene.
- I. FIRE EXTINGUISHER may be used to extinguish small fires in accordance with training and directions on extinguisher. Dispatch should be contacted to notify the Fire Department prior to attempting to suppress a fire with an extinguisher.
- J. TRAFFIC SAFETY VEST will be used when on extended traffic duty such as power loss, fire or on the scene of an accident. Traffic vests or reflective jackets will be worn when directing traffic.

By the Order of:

David B. Smith
Chief of Police