

NEW JERSEY BLUE LIGHT NOTICE

New Jersey Title 39 (N.J.S.A. 39:3-54.12) permits responders to utilize blue warning lights only if the applicant is **an active member in good standing** of a volunteer fire company, first aid or rescue squad, or a municipal OEM and whose duties include responding to a fire or emergency call. The blue light may be used **only** when the vehicle is in response to an emergency.

Members shall complete an application for a blue light permit through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. The application must be approved from the **Mayor or Chief Executive Officer of the governing body of the municipality being served by the volunteer department.**

The permit must be in possession of the operator when the blue light(s) are operated and must be produced upon the request of any law enforcement official. Permits are valid for four (4) years from the date of issuance and are non-transferable. When the volunteer ceases to be an active member in good standing of a volunteer agency the permit must be surrendered to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission within ten (10) days.

Emergency warning lights may be removable or permanently attached. They shall be flashing or revolving, or of the blue light bar type. Lights must be equipped with a blue lens and controlled by a switch installed inside the vehicle. Light elements shall be shielded from the direct view of the driver.

No more than two emergency warning lights shall be installed on a vehicle. If one light is used, it shall be installed 1) in the center of the roof of the vehicle, or 2) on the front of the vehicle so that the top of the emergency warning light is no higher than the top of the vehicle's headlights, or 3) in the center of the dashboard, or 4) a low profile light bar of the strobe, halogen, or incandescent type. If two lights are used, they may be placed on the windshield columns on each side of the vehicle where spotlights are normally mounted, or on either side of the roof at the front of the vehicle directly back of the top of the windshield. Under no circumstances may one light be placed on the roof and one on the windshield column in the spotlight position.

- **Alternating flashing or strobe headlights are prohibited.**
- **Audible devices are not permitted.**

Prior to permitting a new member of a volunteer response agency to display a blue light, an officer of the agency must educate the member on the rights and responsibilities of using a blue light. Emergency personnel who are operating their vehicle with a blue light shall follow all traffic laws. That includes but is not limited to laws regarding speed, stopping at stop signs and red lights, and lanes of travel.



A South New Jersey Volunteer Fire Company agreed to a \$4.5 million settlement of a lawsuit brought by a woman critically injured when her car was struck by a volunteer firefighter who ran a red light while responding to a call.

The 56-year old victim will also receive an additional \$100,000 from the volunteer firefighter.

The victim suffered more than 14 fractures when the volunteer's personal vehicle smashed into the driver's side of her compact car, a Dodge Neon, in January 2018. The firefighter's car was equipped with flashing blue lights and was responding to a fire call when he ran the red light. The victim now uses a wheelchair at home.

It was noted that the Firefighter "clearly went through a red light and though he was responding to a fire call, there is no protection (from) the duty imposed on all drivers to exercise due care."

NEW JERSEY BLUE LIGHT LAW: *"Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of the volunteer fire any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this state".*