

Rule R722-340. Emergency Vehicles.

As in effect on September 1, 2006

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R722-340-1. Purpose.

This rule explains how vehicles can be designated as "authorized emergency vehicles." Authorized emergency vehicles shall be referred to in this rule as "emergency vehicles."

R722-340-2. Authority.

This rule is authorized by Section 41-6-1.5 and Subsection 53-1-108(1)(c).

R722-340-3. Definitions.

As used in this rule:

(1) "Emergency" or "emergencies" means a situation in which property or human life is in jeopardy and the prompt summoning of aid is essential to the preservation of human life or property and justifies the operator of a vehicle to exercise the driving privileges in Subsection 41-6-14(2).

(2) "Industrial ambulance" means an ambulance that is owned and operated by a private company for the sole benefit of its employees.

R722-340-4. Publicly Owned Emergency Vehicles.

(1) A publicly owned fire department vehicle, or publicly owned police vehicle can be designated as an emergency vehicle if the vehicle:

(a) responds to emergencies;

(b) Is in compliance with the emergency lights and siren requirements of Title 41, Chapter 6;

(c) Is properly insured; and

(d) Is approved as an emergency vehicle by the political subdivision that owns it.

R722-340-5. Privately Owned Emergency Vehicles.

Privately owned vehicles can be designated as emergency vehicles by meeting the requirements set forth in this rule.

R722-340-6. Categories of Privately Owned Emergency Vehicles.

(1) Privately owned emergency vehicles shall be divided into the following categories:

(a) private fire response vehicles;

(b) private police vehicles;

(c) private search and rescue vehicles; and

(d) private ambulance vehicles.

R722-340-7. Private Fire Response Vehicles, Private Police Vehicles, and Private Search and Rescue Vehicles.

(1) A private fire response vehicle, private police vehicle, or private search and rescue vehicle can be designated as an emergency vehicle if:

(a) the vehicle is used on a part time basis to assist a governmental agency in responding to emergencies;

(b) the owner of the vehicle receives written authorization to operate the vehicle as an emergency vehicle from the sheriff, chief of police, or fire chief of the governmental agency that the vehicle is authorized to assist;

(c) the vehicle is in compliance with the emergency lights and siren requirements of Title 41, Chapter 6;

(d) the vehicle is licensed and has a current safety inspection certificate; and

(e) the governmental agency that authorizes the vehicle to operate as an emergency vehicle has adopted written policies regarding the operation of emergency vehicles in their jurisdiction. The policies shall require compliance with the statutory restrictions and requirements of Title 41, Chapter 6.

R722-340-8. Ambulance Vehicles.

(1) A publicly owned or privately owned ambulance vehicle can be designated as an emergency vehicle if the vehicle is licensed by the Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services to provide emergency and non-emergency ambulance services under Title 26, Chapter 8.

(2) An industrial ambulance vehicle can be designated as an emergency vehicle if:

(a) the vehicle is in compliance with the emergency lights and siren requirements of Title 41, Chapter 6;

(b) the vehicle is properly insured;

(c) the vehicle is licensed and has a current safety inspection certificate; and

(d) the company that owns the vehicle receives written authorization to operate the vehicle as an emergency vehicle from:

(i) the sheriff of the county in which the company is located; and

(ii) the chief of police of the city, if any, in which the company is located.

KEY

emergency vehicle

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment

September 11, 1997

Notice of Continuation

January 28, 2003

Authorizing, Implemented, or Interpreted Law

41-6-1.5; 53-1-108(1)(c)

41-6a-904. Approaching emergency vehicle – Necessary signals – Stationary emergency vehicle – Duties of respective operators.

(1) Except when otherwise directed by a peace officer, the operator of a vehicle, upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible or visual signals under Section 41-6a-212 or 41-6a-1625, shall:

(a) yield the right-of-way and immediately move to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection; and
(b) then stop and remain stopped until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.

(2) The operator of a vehicle, upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is displaying alternately flashing red, red and white, or red and blue lights, shall:

(a) reduce the speed of the vehicle;
(b) provide as much space as practical to the stationary authorized emergency vehicle;
and

(c) if traveling in a lane adjacent to the stationary authorized emergency vehicle and if practical, with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the authorized emergency vehicle.

(3) The operator of a vehicle, upon approaching a stationary tow truck or highway maintenance vehicle that is displaying flashing amber lights, shall:

(a) reduce the speed of the vehicle; and
(b) provide as much space as practical to the stationary tow truck or highway maintenance vehicle.

(4) This section does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, tow truck, or highway maintenance vehicle from the duty to drive with regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session
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Last revised: Tuesday, April 25, 2006

41-6a-1004. Emergency vehicle -- Necessary signals -- Duties of operator -- Pedestrian to yield.

(1) A pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to an authorized emergency vehicle upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible or visual signals in accordance with Section 41-6a-212 or 41-6a-1625.

(2) This section does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle from:

- (a) the duty to drive with regard for the safety of all persons using the highway; nor
- (b) from the duty to exercise care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session
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Last revised: Tuesday, April 25, 2006

41-6a-1625. Horns and warning devices -- Emergency vehicles.

(1) (a) A motor vehicle operated on a highway shall be equipped with a horn or other warning device in good working order.

(b) The horn or other warning device:

(i) shall be capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet; and

(ii) may not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

(c) The operator of a motor vehicle:

(i) when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, shall give audible warning with the horn; and

(ii) except as provided under Subsection (1)(c)(i), may not use the horn on a highway.

(2) Except as provided under this section, a vehicle may not be equipped with and a person may not use on a vehicle a siren, whistle, or bell.

(3) (a) A vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device if it is arranged so that it cannot be used by the operator as an ordinary warning signal.

(b) A theft alarm signal device may:

(i) use a whistle, bell, horn or other audible signal; and

(ii) not use a siren.

(4) (a) An authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet.

(b) The type of sound shall be approved by the department based on standards adopted by rules under Section 41-6a-1601.

(c) The siren on an authorized emergency vehicle may not be used except:

(i) when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call; or

(ii) in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

(d) The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle shall sound the siren in accordance with this section when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other vehicle operators of the approach of the authorized emergency vehicle.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 2, 2005 General Session

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**41-6a-212. Emergency vehicles -- Policy regarding vehicle pursuits --
Applicability of traffic law to highway work vehicles -- Exemptions.**

(1) Subject to Subsections (2) through (5), the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may exercise the privileges granted under this section when:

- (a) responding to an emergency call;
- (b) in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; or
- (c) responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm.

(2) The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- (a) park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter;
- (b) proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (c) exceed the maximum speed limits, unless prohibited by a local highway authority under Section 41-6a-208; or
- (d) disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(3) Privileges granted under this section to the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, who is not involved in a vehicle pursuit, apply only when:

- (a) the operator of the vehicle sounds an audible signal under Section 41-6a-1625; or
- (b) uses a visual signal with emergency lights in accordance with rules made under Section 41-6a-1601, which is visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) Privileges granted under this section to the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle involved in any vehicle pursuit apply only when:

- (a) the operator of the vehicle:
 - (i) sounds an audible signal under Section 41-6a-1625; and
 - (ii) uses a visual signal with emergency lights in accordance with rules made under Section 41-6a-1601, which is visible from in front of the vehicle;
- (b) the public agency employing the operator of the vehicle has, in effect, a written policy which describes the manner and circumstances in which any vehicle pursuit should be conducted and terminated;
- (c) the operator of the vehicle has been trained in accordance with the written policy described in Subsection (4)(b); and
- (d) the pursuit policy of the public agency is in conformance with standards established under Subsection (5).

(5) In accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Public Safety shall make rules providing minimum standards for all emergency pursuit policies that are adopted by public agencies authorized to operate emergency pursuit vehicles.

(6) The privileges granted under this section do not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle of the duty to act as a reasonably prudent emergency vehicle operator in like circumstances.

(7) Except for Sections 41-6a-210, 41-6a-502, and 41-6a-528, this chapter does not apply to persons, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work on the surface of a highway.

