

EMERGENCY WARNING DEVICES

6840

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The California Vehicle Code (CVC) defines an authorized emergency vehicle as "any publicly owned vehicle operated by . . . a Forestry or Fire Department of any public agency . . ." Though this definition makes no exception, not all of the vehicles owned or operated by CAL FIRE are required to be equipped with the warning devices required by the CVC which preclude the necessity of observing certain traffic laws.

Vehicles used for responding Code 3 to fire or other emergencies must be equipped with at least the minimum required optical and audible emergency warning equipment as specified in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901 Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus. There are two CAL FIRE established levels of emergency vehicle optical and audible emergency warning devices, **Full** and **Minimum**.

Full is that equipment installed on vehicles assigned to and used primarily for initial attack fire or other emergency responses. **Full** emergency response warning device applications are installed on the following equipment:

- Fire engines
- Emergency Crew Transports, (ECT)
- Bulldozer transports
- Bulldozer service units
- Battalion Chief vehicles (normally pickups)
- Vehicles assigned to certain employee positions. (When these vehicles are assigned to law enforcement positions, 50% of the lighting will be blue)

Minimum emergency response warning devices is that equipment installed on vehicles assigned to fire control activity other than initial attack and also used for other administrative duties in which less urgency exists. The **Minimum** emergency response warning equipment does not include a roof mounted light bar but still meets the NFPA minimum requirements. Vehicles assigned to law enforcement with **Minimum** emergency response warning devices will display a single blue light forward and rear facing.

Vehicles that are **not** intended to respond to fires or other emergencies code 3 but need to have more optical warning equipment than just the factory emergency flashers may have amber warning lights installed. Typically those vehicles that need amber warning lights are vehicles that need to park and operate on or near road ways. There are two CAL FIRE established levels of amber optical emergency warning devices, **Full Amber** and **Minimum Amber**.

- **Full Amber** includes a roof mounted amber light bar and may or may not have a rear facing traffic adviser or arrow stick.

- **Minimum Amber** would be a rear facing flashing amber light or a traffic adviser or arrow stick.

FORMS AND/OR FORMS SAMPLES: RETURN TO ISSUANCE HOME PAGE FOR FORMS/FORMS SAMPLES SITE LINK.

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