

## **CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROADS**

**7729**

(No. 2 June 1990)

CAL FIRE peace officers may close areas where a menace to public health or safety exists because of a calamity, such as a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, explosion, accident, or other disaster [PC §409.5(a)]. This section has the effect of giving CAL FIRE peace officers authority to close public highways or roads. However, CVC §2812 requires that the governmental agency having control over the highway will be notified immediately of the reason for and the location of the closing.

Therefore, CAL FIRE peace officers should exercise their authority to close public highways or roads only when the CHP, local sheriff's office, or police department is not available to initiate the closure. In addition to the menace to public health or safety, CAL FIRE peace officers must consider the necessity of protecting both fire control personnel and the general public from potential accidents due to temporary hazards of fire, smoke, etc. The CHP, sheriff's office, or police department should be asked to take over the closure as soon as possible.

When a closure is established by CAL FIRE peace officers, temporary flagmen should be posted. CAL FIRE-owned or operated fire apparatus will carry warning flags or other similar devices for directing traffic.

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