

## **EMS Emergency Warning Device (Lights & Sirens) Usage Policy**

### **Purpose**

To establish standardized procedures for the use of emergency warning devices by EMS personnel operating on race tracks, within event facilities, and on public roadways. The purpose of this policy is to promote responder safety, protect participants and spectators, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and agency protocols.

### **Policy**

The use of emergency lights and sirens is a privilege that carries significant responsibility. Emergency warning devices shall be used only when necessary to facilitate a timely emergency response while maintaining the highest regard for the safety of patients, EMS personnel, race participants, event staff, and the public.

### **Entering the Race Track**

EMS vehicles shall not enter an active race track without authorization from Race Control or the designated Incident Commander.

Before entering the racing surface:

- Authorization shall be received through the designated race communications channel.
- Emergency lights shall be activated.
- Sirens may be used when necessary to alert race personnel, track workers, or other emergency vehicles of the EMS vehicle's approach.
- Drivers shall remain alert for race vehicles, safety vehicles, officials, and changing track conditions.
- Speed shall be appropriate for track conditions, weather, visibility, and pedestrian traffic.
- EMS personnel shall follow all instructions from Race Control, Track Officials, and Incident Command.

### **Operating on the Race Track**

While on the racing surface or in restricted track areas:

- Emergency lights shall remain activated during emergency operations.
- Sirens should be used only when needed to warn others of the vehicle's movement or when directed by Race Control.
- Vehicle operators shall maintain safe speeds and avoid unnecessary rapid acceleration or aggressive driving.
- EMS vehicles shall yield to official track safety procedures and shall not interfere with race operations unless responding to an emergency.
- Personnel shall remain aware of moving race vehicles, debris, fire hazards, and changing incident conditions.

### **Exiting the Race Track**

When leaving the racing surface:

- EMS personnel shall notify or receive direction from Race Control when required.
- Vehicles shall exit using designated access points whenever possible.
- Emergency warning devices may remain activated until the vehicle has safely cleared the track environment and entered the appropriate travel route.
- Operators shall remain vigilant for pedestrians, support vehicles, and event traffic.

### **Operation on Public Roadways**

When responding on public roads:

- Emergency lights and sirens shall only be used during authorized emergency responses or patient transports requiring emergency traffic privileges as permitted by state law and agency protocol.
- Vehicle operators shall obey all applicable traffic laws governing emergency vehicles.
- The use of emergency warning devices does not relieve the driver of the duty to operate with due regard for the safety of all persons.
- Intersections shall be approached with caution and only entered when it is safe to do so.
- Drivers shall maintain a speed that is reasonable for road, traffic, and weather conditions.
- Seat belts shall be worn by all occupants whenever practical and consistent with patient care responsibilities.

### **Non-Emergency Operations**

Emergency lights and sirens shall not be used for:

- Returning from calls.
- Routine movement around the event grounds.
- Convenience or to bypass traffic.
- Parking privileges unless required for scene safety.
- Any non-emergency purpose.

### **Driver Responsibility**

Only authorized personnel who meet agency driver qualification requirements may operate EMS vehicles.

Drivers are responsible for:

- Maintaining safe vehicle operation at all times.
- Using emergency warning devices appropriately.
- Following directions from Race Control and Incident Command while operating within the race facility.
- Immediately reporting any vehicle collision, near miss, or unsafe operating condition.

### **Supervisor Responsibility**

Supervisors shall ensure personnel are trained on:

- Emergency vehicle operations.

- Race track access procedures.
- Radio communication protocols.
- Safe driving practices.
- Applicable state emergency vehicle laws.
- Agency emergency response policies.

### **Compliance**

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, suspension of emergency vehicle driving privileges, or other corrective measures. Safe vehicle operation is the responsibility of every EMS provider and remains the highest priority during all responses.