

Red & Blue Light Laws in the State of Pennsylvania

Blue Light Laws

Who – Ambulance personnel, firefighters (includes Fire Police), owners & handlers of dogs used in tracking humans, and certified Search & Rescue.

How Many – One vehicle only, one or two blue lights or one light bar containing only blue lights.

One blue light – A fixture containing one or more bulbs, which, when activated, produces one point of light to a viewer.

A light bar – A fixture containing more than one light which provides multiple points of light to a viewer. There is no distinction between a mini-bar and a full size light bar.

Alley lights, Take-Down lights or any other clear steady-burn lights are prohibited.

No other colors other than blue may be used. For example, amber flashers or clear rotators are NOT permitted to be used in conjunction with blue lights.

Mounting – may be permanent, hook-on or magnetic. MUST be on roof of vehicle or on a pipe not exceeding 18” above the vehicle. NO dash lights!

Strobes in the headlights, taillights, turn signals, etc. are prohibited.

360 degree visibility is required.

An illuminated switch or pilot indicator is required. Wiring must be fused separately.

4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

- A. Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters, certified volunteer search and rescue organizations and owners and handlers of dogs used in tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more than two flashing or revolving blue lights.
 1. In order to be eligible to display lights on their vehicles under this subsection, the names of the ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters and certified volunteer search and rescue organization members shall be submitted to the nearest station of the Pennsylvania State Police on a list signed by the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company, the head of the search and rescue organization, and each dog owner and handler shall register at the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station.
 2. The manner in which the lights are displayed and their intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.
 3. The lights shall be operable by the driver from inside the vehicle.
 4. The lights may be used only while en route to or at the scene of a fire or emergency call.
 5. The lights shall be removed from the vehicle immediately upon receipt of notice from the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company or the head of the search and rescue organization to remove the lights upon termination of the person's status as an active volunteer firefighter or ambulance person or upon termination of the person's active status as a certified volunteer search and rescue organization member or dog owner or handler, or when the vehicle is no longer used in connection with the person's duties as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance person, certified volunteer search and rescue organization member or dog owner or handler.
 6. This subsection does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor exempt the driver from complying with all provisions of this title.

- B. Flashing or revolving yellow lights.--Vehicles authorized pursuant to the provisions of sections 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police) and 6107 (relating to designation of authorized vehicles by department), tow trucks and vehicles used for snow removal may be equipped with one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights. The manner in which the light or lights shall be displayed and the intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.
- C. Vehicles prohibited from using lights.--No vehicle other than a duly authorized vehicle may be equipped with lights identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b). A person who equips or uses a vehicle with visual systems in violation of this section commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

Red Light Laws

Personal cars of: Fire Chief, First Assistant, if 3 or more fire vehicles, a Second or Third Assistant; Fire Police Captain and Lieutenant, Ambulance Captain and Lieutenant (one of each rank ONLY).

Must have one or more red lights and a siren. May have spotlights, amber lights, clear lights, wig-wag headlights and a traffic-control signal device.

Mounting – may be permanent, hook-on or magnetic. Placement on roof of vehicle, on a pipe not exceeding 18” above the vehicle, in front of or behind the grille or on the front fenders facing sideways (intersection lights). Must be visible

360 degrees. No Dash Lights!

May include alley lights, take-down lights, work lights or other clear steady burn lights; however, must be off while in motion.

May be equipped with amber traffic-control emergency directional light assembly, mounted on light bar, on rear deck, or on trunk lid.

An illuminated switch or pilot indicator is required for each light (including alley lights, floodlights, etc.).

Wiring must be fused separately.

Clear Light – may have one, or two if inside of a light bar. Wig-wag headlights are OK, but high beam activation must override flashing signal.

Amber lights – limited to two; should be on rear or facing rear of vehicle.

Use while responding to or at the scene of a fire or emergency call. May be used exiting or entering official driveway. May be used in the interest of public safety – but must show danger to public, by driving or placement of vehicle.

4571. Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles.

A. General Rule.--Every emergency vehicle shall be equipped with one or more revolving or flashing red lights and an audible warning system. Spotlights with adjustable sockets may be attached to or mounted on emergency vehicles.

B. Police, sheriff, fire and coroner or medical examiner vehicles.--

1. Police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles may in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) be equipped with one or more revolving or flashing blue lights. The combination of red and blue lights may be used only on police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles.
2. Unmarked police and sheriff vehicles, used as emergency vehicles and equipped with audible warning systems, shall be equipped with the lights described in this subsection.

B-1 Mounted lights and additional equipment.--

1. Police, sheriff and fire vehicle may be equipped with a mounted rack containing one or more emergency warning lights or side mounted floodlights or alley lights or all such lights in conformance with department regulations
2. Additional visual or audible warning signal equipment, including, but not limited to, flashing headlamp system, flashing or revolving white or clear lights, steady burning lights, traffic-control emergency directional light assembly, amber lights and intersection lights may be utilized on emergency vehicles in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department.

C. Game Commission vehicles.--(Repealed).

C-1 Public Utility Commission vehicles.--Vehicles owned or operated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used in the enforcement of 66 Pa.C.S. Chs. 23 (relating to common carriers) and 25 (relating to contract carrier by motor vehicle and broker) may be equipped with revolving or flashing red lights in accordance with subsection (a).

D. Vehicles prohibited from using signals.--Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, no vehicle other than an emergency vehicle may be equipped with revolving or flashing lights or audible warning systems identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b). A person who equips or uses a vehicle with visual or audible warning systems in violation of this section commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.

E. Authorized period of use.--The lights and warning systems specified by this section may be used only during an emergency or in the interest of public safety or by police officers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in enforcement of the law. Unauthorized use of the lights and warning systems specified by this section shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.

F. Conformity with department regulations.--All equipment authorized or required by this section shall conform to department regulations.