

Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

USE OF BLUE LIGHTS

Revolving or flashing blue lights may only be displayed on vehicles driven by members of the Department while responding to emergency calls provided the member carries a valid Blue Light Card ("Card") in the vehicle being driven.

Cards shall be issued under the authority of the Chief of this Department to all qualified members of the Department. All applicants must have a valid New York operator's license. All cards will expire after a change of the position of fire chief.

The Card is only valid for the named individual. The Blue Light Card may be suspended or revoked at any time by the Chief as provided below. A member is required to immediately surrender his/her Card when requested to do so by the Chief, or upon their termination of membership in the Department.

All rules and regulations of the State of New York shall govern the use of a blue light and the issuance of a Card. In addition, the Chief of this Department may impose other rules or restrictions on the issuance of a Card, the suspension or revocation of a Card, or the use and operation of a blue light.

All members are required to abide by all state and local laws and regulations when operating a vehicle while on Fire Department business. This includes operating a vehicle while using a blue light when responding to emergency calls. In particular, members are not permitted to violate any vehicle and traffic laws, including, but not limited to those laws relating to speeding, failure to stop for a red signal or stop sign, passing a stopped school bus that is picking up or discharging passengers, or driving in the proper lane of traffic.

A flashing or revolving blue light may only be used when responding to an emergency call on behalf of the Waterloo Fire Department. The blue light may only be used within the Waterloo Protection District. It may also be used when responding, when such response is for a bona fide mutual aid call.

To be valid, the Blue Light Card must be signed by the chief. The member understands, and agrees to abide by all of the rules governing the use of a blue light and/or the issuance of a Blue Light Card. In particular, the member understands that in order to ensure that safe and qualified divers are permitted to use a blue light when responding on behalf of the Waterloo Fire Department; the Chief may periodically review motor vehicle records and driving information pertaining to the member. The review may include such items as accident records and vehicle and traffic law violations that are maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles LENS System. By accepting the Card the member expressly grants the Chief permission to conduct such review.

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A Blue Light Card may be denied, suspended or revoked, where, in the opinion of the Chief, a member fails to demonstrate that he/she can safely operate a motor vehicle. Repeated motor vehicle accidents, history of violations of vehicle and traffic laws, suspension or revocation of an operator's license, and complaints of unsafe driving habits, are some examples of reasons that may prevent a member from being issued a Card. The same reasons may be cause for revocation and/or suspension of a member's Card.

A Member may appeal decision through the Chiefs Committee.