

DRIVING WITH LIGHTS AND SIRENS (CODE 3) CASE STUDY

Case Study Intent:

The Driving with Lights and Sirens (Code 3) Case Study is intended to familiarize students with the concept and regulations regarding emergency vehicle driving using red lights and sirens.

Materials/Equipment:

None

Facilitator Information:

Instructors presenting the Driving with Lights and Sirens (Code 3) Case Study need to be familiar with local protocol regarding emergency vehicle driving response using red lights and sirens.

Instructors should present the hypothetical scenario to students and lead a short discussion stressing the ENOP's obligation to know and follow local, state, and agency policies on engine operations and/or emergency vehicle operations.

As the policy for emergency vehicle operations varies among areas and agencies, instructors should encourage students to not only learn the policy in their area but also those of adjoining areas.

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Since engine modules are a mobile resource and able to respond to any incident any where at any time, engine operators must be aware that policies and procedures can vary among and within areas and agencies with regard to emergency vehicle operations.

What may be standard operating procedure (SOP) at our home unit may differ from the SOP in the area to which you are responding. “When in Rome do as the Romans do” does not always apply. Engine operators need to understand they are limited by what they have been trained and authorized to perform. If they have not completed the necessary training to do something like Code 3 driving, even if they are in an area that does so, they may not participate.

Scenario:

You are an engine operator on a BLM engine in Oregon and have completed the required training and certification for Oregon in responding with lights and sirens to an emergency. You have been dispatched to the Boise National Forest in Idaho on a severity assignment where the Forest Supervisor has approved the use of lights and siren for initial attack. Your engine is equipped with the necessary and approved Oregon lighting package. What issues should you consider before you respond using lights and siren?

- **Has the State Director of Idaho approved the use of lights and sirens to respond to emergencies?**
- **What are the lens color requirements for Idaho?**
 - **Are the requirements the same as Oregon’s?**
- **What are the Idaho certification requirements?**
 - **Does Idaho accept Oregon’s certification?**
- **Are there any limitations attached to the Forest Supervisor’s approval (such as an individual approval versus a program approval)?**
- **If the initial attack is on a neighboring unit jurisdiction that you do not know if approval has been given, do you respond using your lights and siren?**

All of the above should be asked at the briefing before responding to any incident regardless of red lights and siren use.