

WEST SAND LAKE FIRE DISTRICT #1

Blue Light Guidelines

Revised Date: February 24, 2021

PURPOSE: To establish the responsibilities of members who wish to display a blue identification light on their personal vehicle.

SCOPE: These guidelines apply to all firefighters who are authorized to travel to the Fire Station in response to an emergency call in their personally owned vehicles.

AUTHORITY: These Guidelines are established by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the West Sand Lake Fire District #1, which is responsible for their administration.

The authorization to use a blue identification light shall be granted, or revoked, at the exclusive discretion of the Chief, in conformance with these Guidelines.

The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law governs the use of blue identification lights by volunteer firefighters.

GUIDELINE:

If a member desires to display a blue identification light on his or her personal vehicle, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The Member shall complete the required Application for Blue Light Card (Appendix A, below), and submit it to the Chief.
2. Upon receipt of the completed Application, the Chief has sole discretion to grant or refuse permission for the Member to use a blue identification light.
 - a. The Chief may issue a "Blue Light Card" to members who are authorized to use a blue identification light.
3. This authorization shall remain in effect for a maximum of one year unless revoked by the Chief, or his or her successor in office.
4. This authorization shall be immediately terminated, in the event of one or more of the following:

- a. Member's status is changed to Light Duty or Not Cleared for Duty
 - b. Member is otherwise unable to respond to an emergency call in the Fire District in a timely manner
 - c. Membership status is changed from Active, or Life-Active
 - d. Member leaves the Fire Company
5. Members shall use their blue lights for identification purposes only. Other users of the highway may grant the right-of-way to a vehicle which displays a blue light but are under no obligation to do so.
6. The member shall not presume that the display of a blue identification light gives them the right-of-way.
7. While displaying a blue identification light, all members shall observe the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Code, including, but not limited to, the following provisions:
 - a. The driver shall obey all speed limits.
 - b. The driver shall all obey traffic lights and stop signs, even if "waved through" the intersection by other driver(s).
 - c. The driver shall obey all signs and traffic control devices (one-way, no parking, etc.)
 - d. The driver shall not cross solid lines on the highway in an effort to overtake another vehicle, even if "waved around" by the other driver(s).
 - e. The driver shall not use shortcuts such as parking lots, gas stations, or other private property to avoid traffic, lights, or signs.
 - f. The driver shall operate his or her vehicle with the utmost courtesy and respect to other users of the highway.
 - i. The driver shall avoid excessive acceleration, braking, or swerving wherever possible.
8. Blue identification lights shall only be used during response operations. No member shall display a blue identification light while returning from an emergency call, or from the Fire Station to their home or workplace.
9. The affixing or display of a blue identification light is valid within the State of New York. Members traveling outside of New York State shall be subject to the laws of that state.

ENFORCEMENT: The Chief is solely responsible for granting and revoking the permission of any member to display a blue identification light. Any deviations from these Guidelines shall be reported to the Chief as soon as possible, so that appropriate action can be taken.

REVISION HISTORY:

Date	Action	Author
02/24/2021	Original Draft	Policy Committee
03/17/2021	Added Revision History	Deutsch
03/17/2021	Final Draft	Deutsch
03/18/2021	Approval	BOFC
02/01/2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	

APPENDIX A

West Sand Lake Fire District #1

Blue Light Card Application

Firefighter Name: _____

Position/Office: _____

Vehicle Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____

NY Plate No: _____

Vehicle Registrant (If different from member): _____

Certification: By my signature, I agree to the following:

1. I hereby request authorization to display a blue identification light on my vehicle while in response to emergency calls.
2. I have read and agree to adhere to the Blue Light Guidelines established by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the West Sand Lake Fire District #1.
3. I agree to retain any card(s) or other documentation of my authorization to display a blue identification light provided to me, and to produce said documentation upon demand.
4. I acknowledge that any authorization that is granted to me is granted and revoked at the sole discretion of the Chief, and/or his or her successor in office.

Firefighter Signature: _____ Date: _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CHIEF:

Date Received: _____

IF AUTHORIZATION IS GRANTED:

Date Granted: _____ Card No: _____

Date Revoked: _____

IF AUTHORIZATION IS NOT GRANTED:

Date of Decision: _____

Remarks (optional): _____
