

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: June 12, 2013
Topic: 6. Vehicles, Equipment & Facilities	Replaces: July 1, 2004
Subject: 5. Use of Emergency Warning Systems	
Policy No. G.6.5.	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE

To establish a consistent, regulated approach to the use of Emergency Warning Systems within our Manitoulin-Sudbury EMS.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

- 1) The Highway Traffic Act of Ontario permits the limited operating privileges to ambulances **(as per section 144(1)(b)(ii) including ERV's)** including the installation and use of a siren and red lights as follows:
 - a) Section 96, Subsection 5, Paragraph A:
 "Notwithstanding Subsection 5, where an emergency vehicle, upon which a siren is continuously sounding and upon which a lamp is producing intermittent flashes of red light, visible in all directions, is brought to a full stop at a red signal light, the driver, after ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety, proceed through the intersection without waiting for a green signal light to be shown."
- 2) The use of emergency warning lighting systems shall be confined to the following situations:
 - a) while **responding** to Code 4 priority calls **or transporting a patient or injured person in an emergency situation;**
 - b) while parked at the scene of an emergency, when a hazard may be posed by the parked vehicle;
 - c) to facilitate entry into the flow of traffic when departing the scene;
 - d) to increase the visibility of the vehicle or to enhance the safety of the occupants of the vehicle during adverse weather conditions on Code 3 priority calls;
 - e) to attract the attention of bystanders when backing up, especially when crowds have gathered.

While the above represents circumstances where the use of emergency warning systems is allowed, there may be circumstances where the use of emergency warning systems may be detrimental to a timely response ie. heavy fog or snow. In situations where you do not utilize emergency warning systems as listed above it must be documented on the PCR with the reasons why. Regardless of conditions where usage may be detrimental it is essential that when driving an emergency vehicle in a privileged manner as detailed by

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: June 12, 2013
Topic: 6. Vehicles, Equipment & Facilities	Replaces: July 1, 2004
Subject: 5. Use of Emergency Warning Systems	
Policy No. G.6.5.	Page 2 of 2

the HTA, that warning systems are utilized.

- 3) The siren/public address shall only be utilized in conjunction with emergency warning lights **to achieve compliance with the limited operating privileges as detailed above.**
- 4) It must be noted that should the ambulance be involved in an accident resulting from proceeding through a red light, the driver may be charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

REFERENCE
