

Excerpts from the Colorado Revised Statutes, 1996 (Emphasis Supplied)

42-1-102(6). Definitions.

“Authorized emergency vehicle” means such vehicles of the fire department, police vehicles, ambulances, and other special-purpose vehicles as are publicly owned and operated by or for a governmental agency to protect and preserve life and property in accordance with state laws regulating emergency vehicles; said term also means the following if equipped and operated as emergency vehicles in the manner prescribed by state law: (a) Privately owned vehicles as are designated by the state motor vehicle licensing agency necessary to the preservation of life and property; or (b) Privately owned tow trucks approved by the public utilities commission to respond to vehicle emergencies.

42-4-213. Audible and visual signals on emergency vehicles.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or in section 42-4-222 in the case of volunteer fire vehicles and volunteer ambulances, every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this article, be equipped as a minimum with a siren and a horn. Such devices shall be capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet. (2) Every authorized emergency vehicle, except those used as undercover vehicles by governmental agencies, shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this article, be equipped with at least one signal lamp mounted as high as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying a flashing, oscillating, or rotating red light to the front and to the rear having sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight. In addition to the required red light, flashing, oscillating, or rotating signal lights may be used which emit blue, white, or blue in combination with white. (3) A police vehicle, when used as an authorized emergency vehicle, may but need not be equipped with the red lights specified in this section. (4) Any authorized emergency vehicle, including those authorized by section 42-4-222, may be equipped with green flashing lights, mounted at sufficient height and having sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in all directions in normal daylight. Such lights may only be used at the single designated command post at any emergency location or incident and only when such command post is stationary. The single command post shall be designated by the on-scene incident commander in accordance with local or state government emergency plans. Any other use of a green light by a vehicle shall constitute a violation of this section. (5) The use of either the audible or the visual signal equipment described in this section shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and stop as prescribed in section 42-4-705. (6) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits a class A traffic infraction.

42-4-108. Public officers to obey provisions—exceptions for emergency vehicles.

(1) The provisions of this article applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, this state, or any county, city, town, district, or other political subdivision of the state, subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this article with reference to authorized emergency vehicles. (2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in this article. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may: (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title; (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation; (c) Exceed the lawful speeds set forth in section 42-4-1101(2) or exceed the maximum lawful speed limits set forth in section 42-4-1101(8) so long as said driver does not endanger life or property; (d) Disregard regulations governing directions of movement or turning in specified directions. (3) The exemptions and conditions provided in paragraphs (b) to (d), in their entirety, of subsection (2) of this section for an authorized emergency vehicle shall continue

to apply to section 24-10-106(1)(a), C.R.S., only when such vehicle is making use of audible or visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213, and the exemption granted in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of section 42-4-213 unless using such visual signals would cause an obstruction to the normal flow of traffic; except that an authorized emergency vehicle being operated as a police vehicle while in actual pursuit of a suspected violator of any provision of this title need not display or make use of audible or visual signals so long as such pursuit is being made to obtain verification of or evidence of the guilt of the suspected violator. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an emergency vehicle to make use of audible signals when such vehicle is not moving, whether or not the vehicle is occupied. (4) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of such driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others. (5) The state motor vehicle licensing agency shall designate any particular vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle upon a finding that the designation of that vehicle is necessary to the preservation of life or property or to the execution of emergency governmental functions. Such designation shall be in writing, and the written designation shall be carried in the vehicle at all times, but failure to carry the written designation shall not affect the status of the vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle.

42-4-222. Volunteer fire fighters—volunteer ambulance attendants special lights and alarm systems.

(1) (a) All members of volunteer fire departments regularly attached to the fire departments organized within incorporated towns, counties, cities and fire protection districts and all members of a volunteer ambulance service regularly attached to a volunteer ambulance service within an area which the ambulance service would be reasonably expected to serve may have their private automobiles equipped with a signal lamp or a combination of signal lamps capable of displaying flashing, oscillating, or rotating red lights visible to the front and rear at five hundred feet in normal sunlight. In addition to the red light, flashing, oscillating, or rotating signal lights may be used that emit white or white in combination with red lights. At least one of such signal lamps or combination of signal lamps shall be mounted on the top of the automobile. Said automobiles may be equipped with audible signal systems such as sirens, whistles, or bells. Said lights, together with any signal systems authorized by this subsection (1), may be used only when a member of a fire department is responding to or attending a fire alarm or other emergency or when a member of an ambulance service is responding to an emergency requiring the member's services. Neither such lights nor such signals shall be used for any other purpose than those set forth in this subsection (1). If used for any other purpose, such use shall constitute a violation of this subsection (1), and the violator commits a class B traffic infraction. (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) a member of a volunteer fire department or a volunteer ambulance service may equip his or her private automobile with the equipment described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) only after receiving a permit for the equipment from the fire chief of the fire department or chief executive officer of the ambulance service through which the volunteer serves.

42-4-238. Blue and red lights—illegal use or possession.

(1) A person shall not be in actual physical control of a vehicle, except an authorized emergency vehicle as defined in section 42-1-102(6), that the person knows contains a lamp or device that is designed to display, or that is capable of displaying if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light visible directly in front of the center of the vehicle. (2) It shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant was: (a) A peace officer as described in section 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.; or (b) In actual physical control of a vehicle expressly authorized by a chief of police or sheriff to contain a lamp or device that is designed to display, or that is capable of displaying if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light visible from directly in front of the center of the vehicle; or (c) A member of a volunteer fire department or a volunteer ambulance service who possesses a permit from the fire chief of the fire department or chief executive officer of the ambulance service through which the volunteer serves to operate a vehicle pursuant to section 42-4-222(1)(b); or (d) A vendor who exhibits, sells, or offers for sale a lamp or device designed to display, or that is capable of displaying, if affixed or attached to the vehicle, a red or blue light. (3) A violation of this section is a class 1 misdemeanor.

Emergency Vehicle Equipment Authorization Application

PUBLISHED
(06/30/25)

C.R.S. 42-1-102(6), 42-4-108(5), 42-4-213, 42-4-222, 42-4-224, 42-4-238 and Code of Colorado Regulation 1 CCR 204-10 rule 11. Emergency Vehicle Equipment Authorization

Decals are only required/provided for privately owned vehicles necessary to the preservation of life and property or for a governmental vehicle deemed necessary for designation by an Authorizing Agency for the execution of emergency governmental functions. Decals are not required/provided to fire departments, police vehicles, ambulances and other special-purpose vehicles that are publicly owned and operated by or for a governmental agency to protect and preserve life and property.

Applicant (Vehicle Owner) Information

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial |
|-----------|------------|----------------|

Home Address

| | |
|------|----------|
| City | ZIP Code |
|------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Agency/Organization | Title |
|---------------------|-------|

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Email Address | Phone Number |
|---------------|--------------|

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

| | | | |
|------|------|-------|---------------|
| Year | Make | Model | License Plate |
|------|------|-------|---------------|

Audible and Visible Equipment Description (in accordance with C.R.S. 42-4-213)

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Type of Use: | Fire Department | Ambulance | Law Enforcement | Tow Truck* |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| New Sticker | Replacement Sticker | Replaces Old Vehicle |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|

Reason For Replacement

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)

| | | | | |
|--------------|------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Vehicle Year | Make | License Plate | Old License Plate | Date Authorized |
|--------------|------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|

Authorization by Law Enforcement, Fire Chief, Ambulance Service Director

I approve that this vehicle is necessary in the preservation of life, property, or the execution of emergency governmental functions, or PUC as permitted by law enforcement as specified in C.R.S. 42-4-238(2).

Jurisdiction or Organization

Printed Name

Phone Number

Street Address

City

ZIP Code

Signature

Date

Chief of Police

Sheriff

Ambulance Service Director

Fire Chief

Colorado State Patrol

PUC

Printed Name of Authorized Agency Representative

Signature of Authorized Agency Representative

Date

Name as it Appears on Identification of Approver

Badge Number

Employee Number

PUC Number

The undersigned witness affirms that the identification described above was presented to me.

Witness Printed Name

Witness Signature

Department Use Only

Return To:

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Division of Motor Vehicles

PO Box 173350

Denver, CO 80217-3350

Revocation Action Notification

Agency Name

Signature

Printed Name

Date

This Authorization is Valid For a Period of Two (2) Years From The Registration Section Action Date

Note: Vehicle must be titled and registered in the name of applicant.

*** Can only be authorized by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**