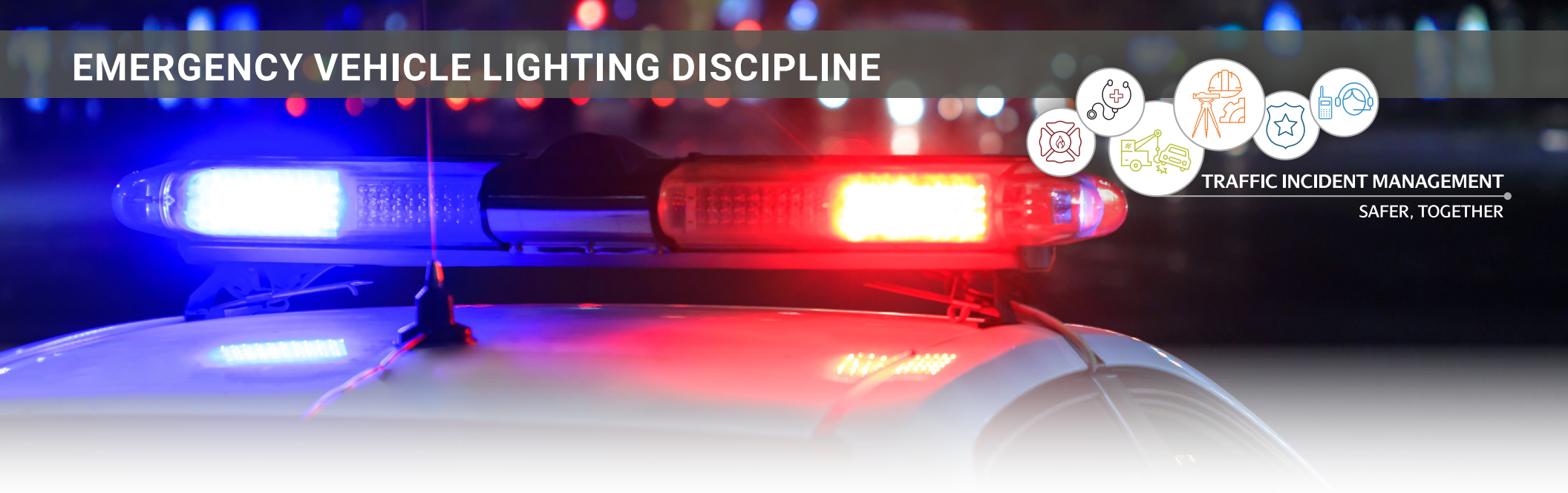
EMERGENCY VEHICLE LIGHTING DISCIPLINE



TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
SAFER, TOGETHER

Why Use Proper Emergency Vehicle Lighting?

The use of emergency vehicle lighting at incident scenes is essential for the safety of emergency responders and the traveling public. Excessive lighting can be overwhelming to the point that it can reduce driver's visibility, increasing the chance of a secondary crash. Traditional emergency vehicle lighting serves only as a warning and does not provide proper traffic control.

A recent study[1] found that lower-intensity lights provided practically the same level of visibility at night as higher-intensity lights while causing less glare for drivers.

Photos courtesy of Responder Safety Learning Network

[1]See "Effects of Emergency Vehicle Lighting Characteristics on Driver Perception and Behavior: Study Report" on respondersafety.com (QR code below)

What You Can Control

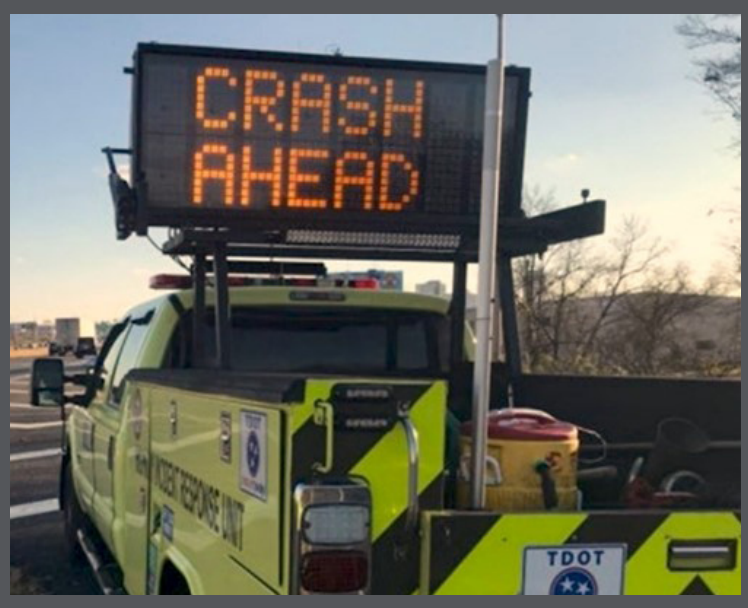
LED lighting technology allows responders to have more control over their vehicle lighting, including:

Active light color
- Governed by state law

Light intensity
- Auto-dim systems make this easy!

Flash pattern
- Light syncing technology allows multiple vehicles to display a unified flash pattern

Flash rate
- Higher when moving, lower when stationary



Other Application: Vehicle Mounted DMS
Advanced warning messages or arrow sticks encourage drivers to slow down and move over for emergency responders.

Photo courtesy of Responder Safety Learning Network

Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle Lighting on an Incident Scene

Once a scene is secured, less is more

- Once a scene is secured, place advanced warning signs and traffic control devices to detour traffic. With this protection in place, on-scene responders can reduce emergency vehicle lighting.
- Reduce or turn off forward-facing lighting, especially on divided roadways, to reduce distractions to oncoming drivers.
- Any floodlights or vehicle headlights that are not needed for visibility should be turned off at night.
- When multiple responder vehicles are on-scene, only the rear-most (upstream) vehicles and blocking vehicles should continue the use of emergency lights after appropriate traffic control is in place.
- Emergency warning lights used at incident scenes should assist drivers in navigating the scene. The use of directional arrows and vehicle-mounted dynamic message signs (DMS) is encouraged.

Note: Agencies should follow all applicable lighting standards to meet minimum lighting requirements established by local and national authorities.

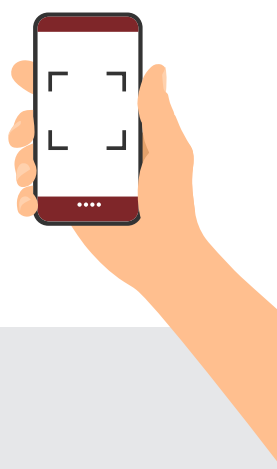
Resources & Training

Emergency Responder Safety Institute: Emergency Vehicles & Lighting (respondersafety.com)

- Training Module: New Technologies in Emergency Vehicle Lighting
- Training Module: See and Be Seen: Emergency Lighting Awareness

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Section 6I.05: Control of Traffic Through Traffic Incident Management Areas

Scan the QR code with your phone to access resources & training!



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