



**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 110-065**

**SIERRA COUNTY EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERMIT STANDARDS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED
VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County, met in a regular meeting on March 15, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. in the Sierra County Administration Office, 855 Van Patten, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, “provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants”; and

WHEREAS, NMSA, 1978, Section 4-38-18 (1976) provides that a Board of County Commissioner has the duty and authority “[t]o represent the county and have the care of the county property and the management of the interest of the county in all cases where no other provision is made by law; and,

WHEREAS, the County relies on, and truly appreciates, the generosity of its volunteers in the provisions of their time and limited resources to the service of the County; and,

WHEREAS, volunteer firefighters utilize their personal vehicles to respond to emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners deems it advantageous to establish emergency vehicle permitting standards pursuant to which certain designated representatives of the several County Fire Departments are permitted install emergency lighting equipment on privately owned vehicles to facilitate their response to emergencies within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County does hereby adopt the following permitting standards and requirements pursuant to which certain designated representatives of the several County Fire Departments are permitted to install emergency lighting equipment on their vehicles:

SECTION 1. BASIC REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, and Battalion Chiefs may apply for a Sierra County Emergency Vehicle Permit.
- 1.2 Applicants for Emergency Vehicle Permits for Privately Owned Vehicles must have a valid State of New Mexico operator's license and current vehicle registration with a New Mexico state firefighter's license plate.
- 1.3 The vehicle must have a front license plate displaying the name of the Fire Department and the title of the applicant.
- 1.4 The applicant must have satisfactorily completed an approved emergency vehicle operator's course within the past three (3) years, maintain insurance that satisfies the provisions of the Mandatory Financial Responsibility Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 66-5-201 to -239, and have written approval for this permit by their Department Chief.
- 1.5 The vehicle and emergency equipment must pass a safety inspection by an auto mechanic of the County's choice, or by the Sierra County Office of Emergency Management. Safety inspections shall be required every twelve (12) months or sooner, as required, if vehicle is suspected of non-compliance.

SECTION II. PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

- 2.1 The emergency lighting and equipment shall be purchased by the private individual at his or her expense.
- 2.2 The vehicle must be equipped with emergency lighting that is visible a minimum of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle. Warning lights must be from an approved public safety equipment manufacturer. Lens colors must be red and white or all red. No blue lenses are authorized. Amber lenses may be used for rear warning only. In addition to these requirements, the vehicle may have optional red warning lights, either halogen strobe or led type, installed in the front grill.
- 2.3 The vehicle must have headlight mounted clear strobe lights, or a headlight flasher, commonly called wig-wags, installed that alternately flashes both high beams on the headlights. The wig-wag flasher, if used, must incorporate an automatic cutoff switch that disables the flasher when the high beams are engaged. All clear lighting must be wired to a separate switch that can be shut off when parking, or during inclement weather or unfavorable conditions.
- 2.4 The vehicle must have an approved public safety equipment 100-watt siren installed, with wail and yelp tones. The speaker must be located in the grill area of the vehicle.
- 2.5 The applicant's department identification number must be located on the rear window, centered, in 4" reflective white lettering.

SECTION III. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 The applicant shall deliver to the County Fire Services Administration Department the following documents:

- A. Proof of a valid New Mexico drivers' license;
- B. The current certificate of vehicle insurance coverage;
- C. The certificate or other evidence of successful completion of the emergency vehicle operator's course;
- D. The certificate of inspection from the Sierra County Office of Emergency Management for compliance with these rules and installation of the required safety and emergency equipment; and

SECTION IV. MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 The Sierra Office of Emergency Management and Sierra County Manager are vested with the discretion to grant, suspend or revoke the authorization to install emergency equipment on a vehicle. The emergency equipment shall be immediately removed from the personal vehicles if such authorization is suspended or revoked.

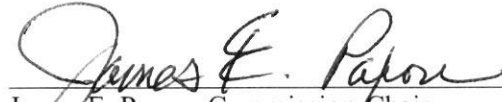
4.2 The Sierra County Office of Emergency Management shall maintain records of all vehicles and operators approved pursuant to this policy, providing each of them with the make, model, color, and other appropriate description of the vehicle and the name of the authorized operator.


4.3 This permit is valid for twelve (12) months from date of issue.


4.4 This permit does not release the operator from practicing safe motor vehicle operations, nor from following state statutes or receiving citations for failure to do so. Application and receipt of an emergency vehicle permit shall constitute and serve as an applicant's release of Sierra County from, and the applicant/operator's assumption all liability for, the applicant/operator's actions while operating permitted vehicles.

PASSED, SIGNED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March 2022.

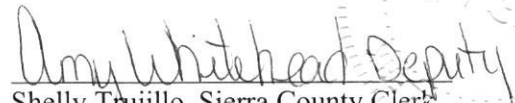
**Board of Commissioners
Sierra County, State of New Mexico**


James E. Paxon, Commission Chair


Travis Day, Vice-Commission Chair


Hank Hopkins, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Shelly Trujillo, Sierra County Clerk

