

VEHICLE CODE (75 PA.C.S.) - DUTY OF DRIVER IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
AREAS

Act of Nov. 4, 2015, P.L. 227, No. 61

Cl. 75

Session of 2015

No. 2015-61

SB 765

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for the definitions of "emergency service responder" and "emergency vehicle"; and, in rules of the road in general, further providing for duty of driver in emergency response areas.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The definition of "emergency service responder" in section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph and the definition of "emergency vehicle" is amended to read:

§ 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

\* \* \*

"Emergency service responder." An individual acting in an official capacity as any of the following:

\* \* \*

**(14) Contractors or employees of a public utility as defined under 66 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions), a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative as defined in 15 Pa.C.S. Ch. 73 (relating to electric cooperative corporations).**

"Emergency vehicle." A State or county emergency management vehicle, fire department vehicle, police vehicle, sheriff vehicle, ambulance, advanced life support squad vehicle, basic life support squad vehicle, emergency canteen support service organization vehicle, blood delivery vehicle, human organ delivery vehicle, hazardous material response vehicle, armed forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or chief county medical examiner and one vehicle operated by a chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner used for answering emergency calls, a vehicle owned by or leased to a regional emergency medical services council that is used as authorized by the Department of Health to respond to an actual or potential disaster, mass casualty situation or substantial threat to public health, a vehicle owned by a county or regional police association and operated by a police officer that is used for police transport or victim extraction, any vehicle operated by a special agent, special agent supervisor, narcotics agent or narcotics agent supervisor while performing official duties as employees of the Office of Attorney General, any vehicle owned and operated by the Philadelphia Parking Authority established in accordance with 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 (relating to parking authorities) and used in the enforcement

of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 57 (relating to taxicabs and limousines in first class cities), **a vehicle owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission that is used by an emergency service responder as dispatched by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's traffic operations center**, or any other vehicle designated by the State Police under section 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned vehicle used in answering an emergency call when used by any of the following:

- (1) A police chief and assistant chief.
- (2) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief.
- (3) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.
- (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant commander.
- (5) A river rescue commander and assistant commander.
- (6) A county emergency management coordinator.
- (7) A fire marshal.
- (8) A rescue service chief and assistant chief.
- (9) The chief or operations director of a county hazardous materials response team.

\* \* \*

Section 2. Section 3327(f) of Title 75 is amended to read:  
§ 3327. Duty of driver in emergency response areas.

\* \* \*

(f) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "emergency response area" means [the] **any of the following:**

(1) **The area in which emergency service responders render emergency assistance to individuals on or near a roadway or a police officer is conducting a traffic stop or systematic check of vehicles or controlling or directing traffic as long as the emergency vehicle is making use of visual signals meeting the requirements of Subchapter D of Chapter 45.**

(2) **The area in which contractors or employees of a public utility, a municipally owned utility or an electric cooperative provide disaster emergency-related services, including, but not limited to, the repair, renovation, installation, construction and activities related to damaged, impaired or destroyed infrastructure, within the first 72 hours after a declared emergency or until the expiration of a declared emergency, whichever is later, as long as the vehicles used to provide disaster emergency-related services are making use of visual signals as authorized under section 4572(b) (relating to visual signals on authorized vehicles).**

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED--The 4th day of November, A.D. 2015.

TOM WOLF