

STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

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Curt T. Schneider
Attorney General

May 26, 1977

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 77-173

Mr. Donald G. McFerson
City Attorney
2707 W. Douglas
Wichita, Kansas 67213

RE: Lamps and Lights on Emergency Vehicles

Synopsis: The lamps and lights required for authorized emergency vehicles under K.S.A. 8-1720 are not required for personal vehicles of fire department and ambulance service personnel unless such vehicles have been designated authorized emergency vehicles, as provided in K.S.A. 8-2010.

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Dear Mr. McFerson:


You request my opinion whether the private vehicles which are owned by employees of the Derby Volunteer Fire Department and Derby Volunteer Ambulance Service are required to be equipped with the signal lamps which are required of authorized emergency vehicles under K.S.A. 8-1720. As you point out, only those vehicles which are designated authorized emergency vehicles by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to K.S.A. 8-2010 are required to have the equipment specified by K.S.A. 8-1720. I find no statutory requirement that the Secretary designate the private vehicles of fire department and ambulance service employees as authorized emergency vehicles, nor do I find any statutory requirement that the private vehicles of fire department and ambulance service personnel be equipped with the signal lamps required by K.S.A. 8-1720 without having been designated authorized emergency vehicles by the Secretary of Transportation.

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Moreover, K.A.R. 36-2-9 prohibits operation of any vehicle with red light and/or siren on the public roadways unless such vehicle is a publicly owned fire department or police department vehicle or ambulance, or is an authorized emergency vehicle.

Therefore, I conclude that the private vehicles of fire department and ambulance service personnel need not be equipped with the lamps required by K.S.A. 8-1720 unless they have been designated authorized emergency vehicles.

Very truly yours,


CURT T. SCHNEIDER
Attorney General

CTS/ERH/cgm