

1972 WL 25203 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

February 9, 1972

*1 Mr. James W. Satterfield
Director
Oconee County Civil Defense Agency
Post Office Box 27
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691

Dear Mr. Satterfield:

You have inquired as to the status of independent non-governmental rescue units with regard to their use of flashing red lights and sirens.

In our opinion, such units do not qualify as authorized emergency vehicles as defined by Section 46–216 of the Code of Laws. They are not entitled to the privileges given to authorized emergency vehicles set forth in Section 46–291, such as proceeding past red lights and stop signs, or exceeding the speed limit. They may not use flashing red lights and sirens as authorized by Section 46–292 to duly authorized emergency vehicles.

If they display such lights or use a siren, they may be charged with a violation of Section 46–392, and if they violate any other law, such as speeding, they may be charged with that violation also.

Very truly yours,

E. W. Drendon
Assistant Attorney General

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