



Wilmot firefighters urge motorists to respect the green flashing light

Baden, ON – Thursday, January 28, 2021 - While there are 441 fire departments in Ontario, only 32 of those are full-time. The majority are volunteer or part-time and are staffed with approximately 19,000 volunteer firefighters across the province.

Wilmot Township fire services is a volunteer department, employing around 90 firefighters assigned to 3 stations in Wilmot - Baden, New Dundee and New Hamburg. These stations are not staffed like full-time stations in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge. Wilmot volunteer firefighters respond at all hours, 24 hours a day, 7 days week, 365 days a year and in all weather conditions.

These dedicated individuals are alerted to emergency calls through a paging system. When an emergency occurs, firefighters are paged out to respond. When the call for help comes in, they may be asleep, sitting down to a holiday meal with family, shopping for groceries, or even working. They respond immediately, driving to their designated fire station as quickly and safely as possible while adhering to the rules of the road.

All drivers in Ontario are familiar with the emergency red flashing lights and sirens on police cars, ambulances and fire trucks, and know that they are required, by law, to pull to the right side of the road and stop when they see or hear these vehicles coming. Not everyone is aware of the volunteer firefighter's green flashing light and what it means.

In the 1990's, legislation was introduced to permit the use of flashing green lights in firefighters' personal vehicles when responding to emergencies. This was done so that the public could be made aware that an emergency response was in progress and avoid delaying firefighters from getting to the firehall or to the scene quickly. In Wilmot Township, nearly all volunteer firefighters have equipped their personal vehicles with flashing green lights.

Precious seconds count in an emergency. When driving, if you see a vehicle with a green flashing light approaching from in front or behind, pull to the right when it is safe to do so, allowing the firefighter to pass. This courtesy will help firefighters respond to an emergency call quickly and safely.

As a reminder, the Wilmot Township Fire Department is installing new signs throughout the township that if they see flashing green lights in vehicles, it means that volunteer firefighters are en route to an emergency. Remember, the home they are rushing to save, or life they're going to rescue, could be yours, a family member, or that of a close friend. In an emergency, every second counts.

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