

CULVER CITY POLICE

TRAINING INFORMATION

DATE: February 24, 2025

NO: 2025-05

Hi-Lo Audible Warning (HLAW) System

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform all personnel about the implementation of the Hi-Lo Audible Warning (HLAW) system within the Culver City Police Department. This system is a critical tool for emergency evacuations and must be used in strict compliance with department guidelines and California Vehicle Code 27002 CVC.

OVERVIEW OF THE HLAW SYSTEM:

The HLAW system has been added to patrol vehicle siren/light control panels as a dedicated “Hi-Lo” button. This system is intended exclusively for emergency evacuation orders and must not be used for any other purpose.

Public Awareness Campaign:

- A public information campaign will launch in March 2025, including a scheduled press conference to educate the community about the system’s purpose and proper response.

Purpose & Use:

- The HLAW alerts the public to imminent danger and conveys the need for immediate evacuation.
- Unauthorized or indiscriminate use is strictly prohibited, as it may diminish public awareness of its intended purpose.
- When activating the HLAW, emergency lights should also be used to enhance visibility and warning effectiveness.

Operational Systems:

1. New “Pathfinder” system (latest patrol vehicles):
 - Emits a repeating Hi-Lo sound with intermittent voice messaging in English and Spanish: “This is the Culver City Police Department. This area is under evacuation order. Please evacuate immediately. Failure to evacuate could result in a loss of life.”
2. Older “Smart-Controller” system (legacy vehicles):
 - Emits only the repeating Hi-Lo sound without voice messaging.
 - This system will be gradually phased out as newer vehicles are deployed.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE & USAGE GUIDELINES:

- HLAW is not considered a legal siren under 27002 CVC and must not be used while driving Code-3.
- All traffic laws must be followed while using the HLAW.
- If a Code-3 response is required, the HLAW must immediately be discontinued, and approved sirens (“Wail” or “Yelp”) must be used instead.

TRAINING & IMPLEMENTATION:

- Training on the proper use and legal parameters of the HLAW system will be provided to all sworn personnel during upcoming patrol briefings.
- Supervisors must ensure compliance and report any misuse of the system.

CONCLUSION:

The implementation of the Hi-Lo Audible Warning System is a critical step in enhancing public safety during emergency evacuations. Proper use ensures clear, authoritative communication with the community while maintaining legal compliance and operational effectiveness.

For further clarification, contact your supervisor or refer to 27002 CVC and department policy guidelines.

Thank you.



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