

## The Green Light Issue

The fact is that in North America we have trouble getting civilians to pull out of the way for a 20 ton fire truck with every light, siren and noise maker known to man on it; what would make anyone believe that because a firefighter bought a dinky green light that someone is going to yield the right of way to them. It seems from Mr. Sutherland that the green lights would act as a courtesy light and would not give green lights emergency vehicle status which under vehicle and traffic laws in the US is vastly different. In New York State volunteer firefighters are allowed to have blue courtesy lights and volunteer ambulance personnel are allowed to have green lights. They are courtesy lights that are asking other drivers to yield the right of way, however they do not empower these vehicle operators to break any vehicle and traffic laws. These vehicles still must stop at red lights and stop signs and obey all speed limits and rules of the road. Some states like Michigan, Maine, Vermont Mass. have provisions that have given volunteers red lights and sirens and emergency vehicle status. So what has that done? **Caused more firefighter deaths and injuries more civilian deaths and injuries for what? Nothing except that some firefighters can now get a giant adrenalin rush and get their rocks off.** Having a group of individuals driving around with flashing lights breaking the vehicle and traffic laws, **which they will do**, is counterproductive to any good public safety initiative. One other thing I noticed, although Mr Sutherland is driving this petition for people wanting lights, there was no mention of any driver training in order to have these lights. If someone is **crazy** enough to allow lights there should be a mandatory period of training and then annual retraining in order to continue responding with lights. Please, please, please, for the safety of all involved do not allow firefighters to have green lights or any other coloured lights, or, as it is in the US, it will be a **safety disaster**.

Andy Yarrow  
Fire Chief  
Pugwash