



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Kay Ivey
Governor

John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

September 25, 2024

Mr. Jeff Smitherman
EMA Director
Alabama Emergency Management Agency
5898 County Road 41
Clanton, AL 35046

Re: Fact Sheet – Movement of Utility Vehicle in Alabama
Responding to Emergency Declarations

Dear Sir:

During a disaster or emergency, the Governor is often asked to waive oversize/overweight restrictions for commercial vehicles to facilitate the rapid deployment of utility fleets. However, most commercial vehicles used by utility companies do not require oversize/overweight permits.

ALDOT understands the importance of time management and resource allocation during an emergency events and wants to help keep the efforts focused on areas that are critical during these instances.

Therefore, attached is a "Fact Sheet" ALDOT has prepared in order to provide information for Commercial Utility Vehicle movements through the State of Alabama when responding to emergencies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very respectfully,

Tracy Fletcher

Tracy Fletcher
Assistant State Maintenance Administrator, EMA/Safety

Cc: File
Mr. George Conner, P.E.

Updated – Sept. 25, 2024

Fact Sheet

Movement of Utility Vehicles in and Through Alabama Responding to Emergency Declarations

- I. **For the Fewer than 1% of Utility Vehicles that may be oversized or overweight:**
 - A. Contact ALDOT's Permit Office (Karen Boyles, 24-hr Number: 334-530-0281, Permit Office 800-499-2782)
 - B. ALDOT will quickly route vehicles through the state to avoid locations that might otherwise delay their travels, such as:
 1. Posted bridges
 2. Lane width restrictions
 3. Construction Zones
 4. Vertical clearance restrictions
 5. Etc.
- II. Utility Fleet Vehicles that are neither oversize nor overweight do not require ALDOT permits, therefore, waivers for weight and size are not needed.
- III. ALDOT Permit Office will waive permit fees for utility vehicles that are providing direct assistance to an emergency event.
- IV. Utility Commercial Vehicles are normally registered in the state for which they are operated. Vehicle registration issues need to be addressed with the **Department of Revenue**.
- V. ALDOT has only one weigh station on I-20 Westbound at the Georgia-Alabama line. Utility Vehicles initially responding to provide direct assistance to an emergency event will not have to go through the weigh station. The timer frame for this is determined by the Governor. This information will be communicated with onsite ALEA and weigh station personnel for each emergency event.
- VI. Through coordination efforts between ALDOT and ALEA, the mobile weight enforcement teams should not be a source of delay for vehicles responding to emergency event. In addition, ALEA commonly does not look for registration violations on vehicles that are responding to emergency events.
- VII. Holiday Restrictions
 - A. Defined: No permitted oversize or overweight vehicles are allowed to be moved during the holiday restrictions due to an increase volume of traffic on ALDOT Highways.
 - B. The exception to ALDOT's "Holiday Restrictions" is for when responding to Emergency Events.
 - C. <https://www.dot.state.al.us/business/permits/osowPermits.html>
 1. Under ALPASS – Alabama's Online OS/OW Permitting System Section
 - 1) Click on "2024/2025 Holiday Restrictions"
 - 2) **NOTE: This list may be updated from year to year**

Fact Sheet
Movement of 90,000lbs Gross Weight Vehicles on Five and Six Axles
in and Through Alabama Responding to Emergency Declarations

23 USC 127 (i) Special permits during periods of national emergency.—

1. **In general.** -- Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a State may issue special permits during an emergency to overweight vehicles and loads that can easily be dismantled or divided if –
 - A. the President has declared the emergency to be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.C.S. 5121 et seq.);
 - B. the permits are issued in accordance with State law; and
 - C. the permits are issued exclusively to vehicles and loads that are delivering relief supplies.
2. **Expiration.** -- A permit issued under paragraph 1 shall expire not later than 120 days after the date of the declaration of emergency under subparagraph (A) of that paragraph.