



SHIFT BRIEFING



ROAD FLARES BEST PRACTICES

Road flares burn at approximately 70 candelas. By comparison, chemiluminescent light sticks are approximately 10 candelas and a typical flashlight is 5 candelas.

D.O.T. classifies road flares as a flammable solid but they are not particularly sensitive to initiation. There is no threat of mass or individual explosion. Road flares should be stored in a cool, dry place away from excessive heat (above 167° F), sparks, or flames.

While road flares have no expiration date when properly stored, storage above 120° F for a long time (over 1 week) should be avoided. Normal recommended storage temperatures are 40° to 90° F. To preserve the reliability and performance characteristics of road flares, do not expose the units to water for periods longer than 10 minutes.

Where to Use Road Flares

- **Straight Road:** Place 1 flare at least 300 feet behind the stalled car, and a second flare 10 feet behind the stalled car.
- **Curve or Hill:** To provide early warning, place one flare around the curve, 300 feet behind the car. Place a second flare 10 feet behind the stalled car.

Using Road Flares

1. Remove the plastic lid to expose the scratch surface cap.
2. Twist and remove the cap, exposing the flare igniter button.
3. Gently strike the scratch surface of the cap against the black button of the flare (similar to striking a match), while pointing away from the face and body.



Safe & Effective Use of Road Flares

- Never light flares in the presence of spilled flammables or where there are vapors emitting from the vehicle.
- Light the first flare, placing it at least 10 feet behind the vehicle. Normal rain and wind will not affect the flares' performance, but be sure not to immerse the flame in a puddle of water.
- Light the second flare. Walk with it, holding the flare away from your body, to a spot some 300 feet behind the vehicle. Place the flare on the ground. (Carrying the lit flare will help protect you from oncoming traffic.)
- If on a two-lane road, place a third flare at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, to warn traffic passing in the opposite direction - or keep the third flare as a spare in case you are stalled for more than 15 minutes. For longer emergencies, flares may be stacked to provide additional warning time. Place the lighted flare on the ground, then uncap the second flare and place it on the non-burning end of the first flare to form an "L". The second flare will light automatically as the first flare burns down to provide a full 30 minutes of protection.

Before leaving the scene, make sure the lit flares have burned completely. If not and the remaining flare length permits, extinguish them by tapping the burning end on the pavement, separating the burning portion from the rest of the flare. Never extinguish by stepping on the flare.