

CSTI Fire and Rescue Training

California Specialized Training Institute | STATE OF CALIFORNIA



HI-LO SIREN TRAINING ALERT

On September 29, 2020, California enacted California Senate Bill 909 (CA SB 909) which authorizes emergency vehicles to be equipped with a “Hi-Lo” audible warning sound to be used solely for the purpose of notifying the public of an immediate need to evacuate. To keep Californians safe, Cal OES is investing in this technology and adding the Hi-Lo siren with voice capability to all new fire apparatus. Here are some useful tips for using the Hi-Lo siren.

WHELEN CORE®

Cal OES uses the Whelen Core® control system to enhance public safety. Whelen Core® is highly configurable and offers advanced automation, remote connectivity, and system synchronization.

This system has the capability to make announcements in several different languages. Announcements and languages will be pre-programmed into the control system.

Contact Cal OES Public Safety Communications (PSC) for more information.

HOW TO USE THE HI-LO SIREN

To use the Hi-Lo siren, the operator of the fire apparatus will:

- Activate siren using toggle.
- Depress the HI/LO button.
- The pre-programmed evacuation message will begin announcing over the siren speaker.



TERMINOLOGY

CALIFORNIA STANDARD STATEWIDE EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

- **Evacuation Order:** Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access.
- **Evacuation Warning:** Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock should leave now.
- **Shelter in Place:** Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.
- **Evacuation Order(s) Lifted:** The formal announcement of lifting evacuations in an area currently under evacuation.
- **Hard Closure:** Closed to all traffic except Fire and Law Enforcement.
- **Soft Closure:** Closed to all traffic except Fire, Law Enforcement and critical incident resources (i.e. Utility, Caltrans, City/County Roads etc. or those needed to repair or restore infrastructure).
- **Resident only Closure:** Soft closure with additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.

LEARN MORE

Read the [California Senate Bill 909](#)

Watch the Cal OES [Hi Lo Siren video](#) on YouTube

Visit the Whelen [website](#) for information on the Whelen Core® control system



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
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