

Howard Talks Tech

Safe Use of Road flares

Highway Safety 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 flares as a flammable solid but they are not particularly sensitive to initiation. *There is no threat of mass explosion.* There is no threat of an individual flare exploding. *Flares should be stored in a cool, dry place* away from excessive heat (above 167 degrees F), sparks or flames. *While flares have no expiration date when properly stored,* storage above 120 degrees F for long period of time (over 1 week) should be avoided. Normal recommended storage temperatures are 40 - 90 degrees F.

Where to use emergency flares

On a Straight: Place one flare at least 300 feet behind the stalled car. Place a second flare 10 feet behind the stalled car.

On a Curve: 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.

On a Hill: Place one flare on the top of the hill, on the blind or far side, 300 feet behind the stalled car. Place a second flare 10 feet behind the stalled car.

Emergency flares are easy and safe to use.

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



TIPS on safe and effective flare use

- Never light flares in the presence of spilled flammables or where there are fumes 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 flame in a puddle of water.
- Light the second flare, and then walk with it, holding the flare away from your body, to a spot some 300 feet behind the vehicle. Place flare on ground. (Carrying the lit flare will help protect you from oncoming traffic.)
- Before leaving the scene, make sure that 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.