



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BEHIND THE STAR

SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



Lighting up your vehicle!!!

“ The movie, The Fast and Furious, really made putting neon lights on your car very popular” says, Sheriff Patton. Neon car lights, also referred to as “ underglow” lights are non-standard neon or LED lights that attached to the under body of a car, truck, or motorcycle. Neon underglow lights are especially popular amongst the aftermarket car dealers and owners looking to make their vehicle stand out.

Laws concerning the use of neon lights are covered under the lighting requirements of state traffic laws. Most states have specific laws concerning restrictions on the use of accent lighting and other, unlawful vehicle modification in terms of color, form, type, and location on the vehicle. Underglow lights are legal so long as they remain covered and unlit on public roads and do not flash or include the color red or blue.

The Ohio Revised Code states, no person shall drive or move any vehicle upon any street or highway with any light or device thereon displaying a blue light, or alternate red and blue flashing light mounted on such vehicle. This does not apply to police public safety vehicles.

Understand this does not prohibit the use of warning lights required by law or the simultaneous flashing of turn signals on disabled vehicles or on vehicles being operated in unfavorable atmospheric conditions in order to enhance their visibility. This does not prohibit the simultaneous flashing **or** turn signals or warning lights either on farm machinery or vehicles escorting farm machinery, when used on a street or highway.

“ I know the lights enhance the vehicles looks, but they can be a distraction to other drivers”, says Sheriff Patton. The law does not stop you from putting or having the lights on your vehicle, it just states you can not drive with them on.

If you have any questions about lighting on your vehicle, please contact the Union County Sheriff's Office If you have any question or need assistance with safety seats or seat belts, please contact Deputy Rich Crabtree at 937-645-4100, ext. 4310 or by email at rcrabtree@co.union.oh.us.