



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 276
[2011 Assembly Bill 217]

**Impersonating Emergency
Responders**

2011 Wisconsin Act 276 penalizes a person who impersonates a fire fighter, emergency medical technician (EMT), or first responder.

Prior Law

Prior law criminalized impersonation of a peace officer, but did not cover other emergency responders. Impersonation of a peace officer with intent to mislead others into believing that the person is actually a peace officer is a Class A misdemeanor and impersonation with intent to commit or aid or abet a crime is a Class H felony.

2011 Wisconsin Act 276

Act 276 adds fire fighters, EMTs, and first responders to the existing law criminalizing the impersonation of a peace officer. Under the Act, a person who impersonates a fire fighter, EMT, or first responder with intent to mislead others into believing that he or she is actually a fire fighter, EMT, or first responder is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. A person who impersonates a fire fighter, EMT, or first responder with intent to commit or aid or abet a crime is guilty of a Class H felony.

Effective date: Act 276 takes effect on April 24, 2012.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.