

## Rules and Regulations

Administrative Regulations  
Policy 111.0  
Emergency Driving



### **Purpose:**

Driving in an emergency is a great responsibility. Members must always drive safely when driving their personal vehicle and when driving City owned vehicles. The purpose of this policy is to ensure consistency when driving personal and City vehicles when responding to an emergency.

### **Policy:**

State and local laws exempt authorized emergency vehicles from some regular traffic laws when responding to an emergency. However, neither State or local laws nor this policy relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the responsibilities of driving with due regard for the safety of others. When responding to an emergency it may be necessary to slow down or stop as necessary for the safety of others using the roadway. Drivers shall always maintain a speed consistent with the safe operation of the vehicle under prevailing road conditions. Drivers remain fully accountable and responsible for their actions. Drivers shall focus their full attention on the safe operation of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle shall not move the vehicle until all personnel are seated with seatbelts fastened.

This policy applies to personal vehicles being used as Public Safety Vehicles and to City owned vehicles when responding to emergency calls.

### Speed

The posted speed limit may be exceeded when it is safe to do so. Heavy traffic conditions and adverse weather conditions may require reduced speed. It is the driver's responsibility to maintain speeds consistent with the safe operations of the vehicle under prevailing conditions.

### School Zones

When entering a school zone where the lights for the zone are activated the posted speed limit for the zone shall be adhered to even when responding to an emergency with lights and siren in use.

### School Buses

When encountering a school bus with their lights activated, the emergency vehicle shall stop and obey all traffic laws concerning the loading and unloading of the school bus. The emergency vehicle shall not move until the driver of the school bus has turned off the

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flashing lights on the bus. Once lights have been turned off proceed with extreme caution watching for children who may dart out in front of the vehicle.

### Passing Non-emergency Vehicles

When passing civilian traffic with lights and siren activated, slow down to posted speed limit or slower if necessary and always pass on the left whenever possible. Civilian traffic is supposed to pull to the right and yield. This does not always occur. Be aware that civilian traffic may stop where they are. Be prepared to take defensive maneuvers and stop if necessary.

### Passing Other Emergency Vehicles

The passing other emergency vehicles while responding to an emergency incident should be avoided. However, if it is necessary to pass another emergency vehicle the front vehicle shall give the clearance to do so, otherwise there is no passing.

### Intersections

When approaching intersections with a red traffic signal and stop signs, with lights and sirens activated, the driver shall come to a complete stop to ensure that all other traffic has yielded then proceed cautiously through the intersection.

When approaching an intersection with a green traffic signal, with lights and sirens activated, the driver shall slow down and be prepared to stop if necessary to ensure all other traffic has yielded.

### Driving Left of Center

Whenever driving left of center, with lights and sirens activated, the driver shall slow and be prepared to stop to ensure that traffic has yielded. When entering an intersection left of center, the driver shall stop to ensure that all other traffic has yielded then proceed with caution. This includes when approaching an intersection with a green traffic signal.