

LIGHTS AND SIRENS



When driving, it's important to be situationally aware of what is happening around you. The following tips will help you to act appropriately in the presence of an emergency response vehicle.

» **Look and listen**

Be aware that having your radio or loud music and air-conditioning on may impair your ability to hear approaching sirens.



» **Stay calm**

If you can't move out of the way safely, remain calm and wait until you can. Do not make any sudden or unplanned movements, and do not brake suddenly.



» **Merge left**

Emergency response vehicles will attempt to pass vehicles on the right wherever possible. Work with other drivers to create space for emergency vehicles to pass. Use your indicator to signal to other drivers what you intend to do. Do not damage your vehicle to move out of the way.



» **Stay alert**

Never put yourself in danger. Never drive through railway stop lights or boom-gates. Emergency response vehicles will wait. Be aware there could be more than one emergency response vehicle travelling to the same incident from different directions.



Emergency response vehicles are driven by police, firefighters and paramedics. All emergency response vehicles using lights or sirens are responding to an emergency. They never practise with their lights or sirens on.

Emergency response vehicles are required to use lights and / or sirens when responding to a priority incident. This signifies to other road users that these vehicles are no longer driving under standard traffic rules and allows them certain exemptions to the road rules, as long as it is safe.

Queensland traffic regulations state that drivers must give way to, or move out of the path of, emergency vehicles using lights or sirens as soon as it is safe to do so.

- » Sometimes emergency vehicles switch their lights and sirens off because they have been told via radio that a situation has been made safe.
- » Emergency response vehicles may approach red lights or stop signs cautiously and appear to be about to stop. They are not giving way, rather they are ensuring it is safe to proceed. Do not proceed until after the emergency vehicle has moved on, and always check for a second emergency response vehicle.
- » Emergency vehicles will use the wrong side of the road if they need to. If you see an emergency vehicle approaching on the wrong side of the road, slow down and merge left.
- » It is important to help other vehicles get out of the way of emergency vehicles. Allow vehicles to merge in front of you if they are indicating their intention to do so.
- » Providing you can do so safely and justify your action, you will not get a ticket if it's necessary to break traffic rules (e.g. driving through a red traffic light) to give way to an emergency vehicle. However it must be safe to do so.

Did you know...

The average fire truck weighs 17 tonnes - 10 times the weight of a standard car.

Pedestrians

An increasing number of pedestrians are experiencing near misses with emergency response vehicles. Pedestrians may also cause traffic collisions if drivers swerve to avoid them.

- » As a pedestrian, stop and step aside if you need to use your phone.
- » If using media devices, do not have the volume so loud that you can't hear the traffic and the voices of those around you.