
City of Rancho Mirage Fire Department

YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Many people aren't sure what to do when they see an emergency vehicle in their rearview mirror... pull into a turn lane, drive into the median, stop altogether or just keep driving? Unfortunately, this is a dilemma emergency vehicles encounter often.

If you pull to the right and stop as soon as possible, give yourself a pat on the back! You're helping the Fire Department save precious seconds on their way to an emergency. Anytime you see an emergency vehicle with sirens or flashing lights, you should pull to the right and stop as soon as you safely can. This is true for ambulances, police cars and fire engines.

Knowing the rules of the road is very important for everyone's safety. The law states that "on the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals... an operator, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:

- 1) yield the right-of-way;
- 2) immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of roadway clear of any intersection;
- 3) stop and remain standing until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed."

Anyone ignoring this law can be cited for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. So next time you see flashing lights or hear a blaring siren, remember to pull to the right-hand side of the road. You can't, after all, be in as big a hurry as the emergency vehicle. And one day, should you ever need emergency services, you won't want someone blocking their way.