



Frequently Asked Questions #25

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE/HEAR LIGHTS & SIRENS?



Do you know what to do if you're driving and see or hear an emergency vehicle traveling under lights and sirens to an accident?

1. Keep clear of the emergency vehicle.

2. If you are in the way of an emergency vehicle behind you:

- You must move out of the way as soon as you can safely do so.
- Do not panic.
- Generally, you should slow down and pull over to the left when it is safe to move over.
- Use your indicator, to let the emergency vehicle know that you have seen them.
- If possible, move into the left lane, or into the road shoulder, or breakdown lane, and come to a stop.
- If you cannot move out of the path of the vehicle, keep moving forward until it is safe to do so.
- Do not brake suddenly.
- Drivers on both sides of the road should be prepared to move out of the path of approaching vehicles.
- You must obey the road rules at all times.

3. Give way to the emergency vehicle approaching or that has entered an intersection:

- If you are stopped, you must remain stopped until it is safe to proceed, even if the traffic light is green for your direction of traffic.
- If you're not stopped, you must slow down and stop if necessary to avoid a collision with the emergency vehicle.

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| FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property) | 000 |
| TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers) | 1 800 333 000 |
| TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line) | 131 444 |
| IF YOU'RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station) | 9476 9799 |
| TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP | 106 |
| SPEAK AND LISTEN | 1800 555 727 |

ENGLISH

Vulnerable Roadside Workers

The rule has been expanded to apply to motorists when passing stationary TOW TRUCKS AND BREAKDOWN ASSISTANCE VEHICLES DISPLAYING FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS, in addition to emergency vehicles displaying flashing blue or red lights.

4. When passing a STOPPED emergency vehicle with flashing blue/red or yellow lights:

- If the speed limit is 80km/h or less, you must slow down to 40km/h.
- If the speed limit is over 90km/h, you must slow down safely to a reasonable speed for the circumstances and provide sufficient space between them and you. This includes changing lanes on a multi-lane road, if it's safe to do so.
- You must not increase your speed until you've passed all vehicles and people involved.

You must obey directions given by police on the road, including police signs and hand signals.

If the police direct you to pull over, you must stop in a safe place as soon as you can.

Related information:

Remember, seconds count in an emergency.

You should not play music, either through the car system, or on an independent playing system, such that you cannot hear outside noises (including warning sirens). It is better to not use listening devices, such as ear phones, when driving.

Emergency vehicles with sirens sounding or lights flashing responding to urgent situations are not required to follow the road rules, as long as it is safe for them to do so.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community's one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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