Move Right for Sirens and Lights

We all share the responsibility of knowing and practicing proper driving behaviors. One of the most important "rules of the road" deals with yielding the right of way to emergency vehicles as detailed in the Revised Codes of Washington (RCW) 46.61.210. Each day, emergency vehicles respond to urgent requests from the public. The call may be for a person that has stopped breathing, a fire alarm, or a car accident. It is the concern of all Emergency Services Providers that response time for services be minimized. Precious minutes lost while en-route to an emergency could be the difference between life and death. All drivers must know their responsibilities when approached by an emergency vehicle with its red lights flashing or siren sounding.

What Drivers Should Do:

* Remain calm.
* Don't panic!
* Pull to the right and come to a stop.
* When on a high-speed road or when there is no room to stop, slow down as much as possible.
* When in the left lane, pull over into the right lane as the traffic in the lane to your right moves over.
* If you cannot move to the right because of an obstacle such as a car to your right, simply stop.
* Your prompt action will let the driver of the emergency vehicle know what you are doing; it will allow the driver to anticipate where to drive.
* When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stationary at an intersection stop sign or red light, do not move unless you can pull to the right.

What Drivers Should NOT Do:

* Don't stop in the middle lane when there is room to pull to the right.
* Don't pull to the left in the center lane or left turn lane.
* Don't drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.
* Don't turn quickly to the left into a driveway or street.

Emergency Vehicles Leaving Their Stations
The law requires you to pull to the right and yield to an emergency vehicle, even before it gets on the road. Be alert. When you see that a fire engine or medic unit is coming out of its station, pull to the right and stop.

Blocking An Intersection
When motorists see an emergency vehicle approaching, they pull to the right and stop before they get to the intersection. They do not turn or go until they are sure all emergency vehicles have passed. Traffic in both directions must yield to an emergency vehicle. This is critical at intersections. Motorists should pull to the right and stop before they get to the intersection—and must always yield to an oncoming emergency vehicle making a left turn.

For More Information Contact:
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