

SHARING THE ROAD WITH...

Buses and Emergency Vehicles



Because these vehicles are so important to the safety of our society, there are special laws for driving around buses and emergency vehicles such as police cars, fire engines or ambulances. While it's important to get to know the laws as they apply in your state, the following safety procedures apply in most cases.

Buses

When approaching a stopped bus from behind, slow down and pass at no more than 10 miles per hour. If you must move into another lane to pass the bus, do so only when the lane is clear. Watch for pedestrians who may be trying to cross the street after getting off the bus.

School Buses—A Special Case

Children and traffic are an especially dangerous mix. That's why many states have special laws for driving around school buses. When approaching a school bus, slow down. If the bus's amber lights are flashing, the bus is about to stop. When the bus is stopped, the red lights are flashing. Most states require you to stop if the red lights are flashing or the stop arm is extended out from the

left side of the bus. This applies to traffic going in both directions on the road.

When stopped behind a school-bus, stay 75 feet (2 bus lengths) back so the driver can see you and to provide a safety margin for the children.

Emergency Vehicles

You must yield the right of way to emergency vehicles. If you hear a siren or see a flashing light, pull over as far as possible to the right, and stop until the vehicle has passed. Don't stop in an intersection. If you're blocked from moving right, stay where you are. Usually the emergency vehicle can pass you on the left. If necessary, the vehicle's driver may give you instructions by loudspeaker.

Many states prohibit following within 300 feet of an emergency vehicle when its siren and lights are on. It may also be illegal to deliberately go to the scene of an emergency. If you find yourself on the scene of a disaster, get away as quickly as possible, being careful not to run over unprotected fire hoses.