



INFORMATION SHEET

LIGHTS & SIRENS

4 Simple Messages

When driving, it is important to be aware of what is happening around you. This is called “situational awareness”. The following information is a guide only. Each situation will have factors that cannot be included (e.g. the actions of other drivers or road conditions).

Look and listen

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



Stay calm

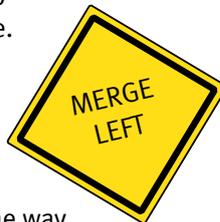
If you can't move out of the way safely, remain calm and wait until you can. Do not make any sudden or unplanned movements. **DO NOT** brake suddenly!



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.



Don't damage your vehicle to move out of the way.

Stay alert

Never put yourself in danger. **Never, ever** go through railway stop lights or boom-gates. Emergency response vehicles won't.



Be aware there could be more than one emergency vehicle responding to the same incident from various directions.

What's so special about ERVs?

Emergency response vehicles (ERVs) are driven by police, firefighters and paramedics. All ERVs using lights and sirens are responding to an emergency. ERVs **NEVER** practise with their lights and/or sirens on.

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

ERVs 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 to exceed speed limits and proceed through red lights and stop signs, when safe to do so. Additional driving codes provide the ERVs with further guidelines (e.g. pausing before proceeding through traffic lights).

Time lost on the way to an emergency could result in loss of life. Give way to emergency vehicles when it is safe to do so!

For more information...
Refer to sections 78 and 79 of the Queensland Road Rules.

Sometimes emergency vehicles switch their lights and sirens off because they have been told via radio that a situation has been made safe.

Additional Clarification

Emergency vehicles may approach red lights or stop signs cautiously and appear to be about to stop. **They are not giving way to you.** They are ensuring it is safe to proceed. Do not proceed until after the emergency vehicle has moved on. Always check for a second ERV.

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. proceed through a red traffic light) to give way to an emergency vehicle. **However, it must be safe to do so.**

An increasing number of pedestrians are experiencing near misses with ERVs. They may also cause traffic collisions when drivers swerve to avoid them. Stop if you need to use your phone. Do not have the volume so loud that you can't hear the traffic and the voices of those around you.

Did you know...
The average fire truck weighs 17 tonnes. This is 10 times the weight of a standard car.

Remember, the larger the vehicle and the higher the speed; increases the need for a greater stopping distance.

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