



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## Public Service Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PULL TO THE RIGHT AND STOP FOR SIRENS AND LIGHTS

If you or someone you love is in need of emergency assistance, you want help to arrive immediately. Did you know that there's one simple thing everyone can do to help firefighters, ambulances, and law enforcement officers provide emergency assistance as quickly as possible? Just *Move Right for Sirens & Lights*.

Every year in the United States there are 16,000 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles responding to or returning from incidents. These collisions result in over 1,000 firefighter injuries and 50 deaths. Many, if not most, of these accidents would be avoided if everyone would just *Move Right for Sirens & Lights*.

Why, then, doesn't everyone just pull to the right? Many people panic. Some don't know or understand the law. Others simply don't adhere to the rules of the road.

The law is very specific: Drivers must yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle. Firefighters work hard to avoid vehicle collisions by driving slowly when traveling against traffic, coming to a complete stop at intersections, etc. However, the cooperation of ALL vehicles on the roadway is essential.

### SIMPLE RULES

There are some simple rules to follow when you're on the road and encounter an emergency vehicle whose lights are flashing, whether the siren is sounding or not.

**DO** pull to the right and come to a complete stop. If you're traveling on a high-speed road or if there is no room to stop, slow down as much as possible.

If you are in the left lane, **DO** pull over into the right lane as traffic in the lane to your right moves over.

If you cannot move to the right because of another vehicle or obstacle, just stop. Your action will let the driver of the emergency vehicle know what you are doing and allow the driver to anticipate where to drive.

When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stopped at an intersection, **DO** stay where you are unless you can pull to the right.

On a two or four-lane highway or street without barriers, both sides of traffic should pull to the right

If the emergency vehicle is traveling on the opposite direction of a divided highway or street, you do not need to pull over.

If you are on a divided highway where traffic in front of you is at a standstill and you see emergency lights behind you, move to the right if you can; stay where you are if you can't. **NEVER** move into the center divider—you could be moving into the path of an approaching emergency vehicle.

**DO** stay at least 500 feet behind any emergency vehicle.

**DO** be extremely careful when driving by or around a motor vehicle accident or any situation where emergency vehicles are parked and the firefighters are working.

**DO NOT** move to the left—ever.

**DO NOT** play your radio so loudly that you are unable to hear sirens.

**DO NOT** stop in the middle lane when there is room to pull to the right.

**DO NOT** pull to the left into the center lane, the center divider or left turn lane.

**DO NOT** race ahead to make the green light or turn before the emergency vehicle gets there.

**DO NOT** turn quickly to the left onto a street or driveway.

**DO NOT** drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.

**DO NOT** disregard the presence of the emergency vehicle by continuing to drive.

Following these simple rules will help everyone involved in an emergency: those who desperately need help and those who are hurrying to help them. Every emergency responder—firefighter, ambulance driver, police officer—will appreciate it when you *Move Right for Sirens & Lights*.

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