



If, whilst travelling across a traffic light junction, you become aware of an emergency vehicle approaching from either side, do not brake harshly. This may cause an accident. If you cannot stop by gradual braking keep travelling across the junction. **Check your mirrors!** Emergency vehicles must give way to traffic crossing on the green lights.

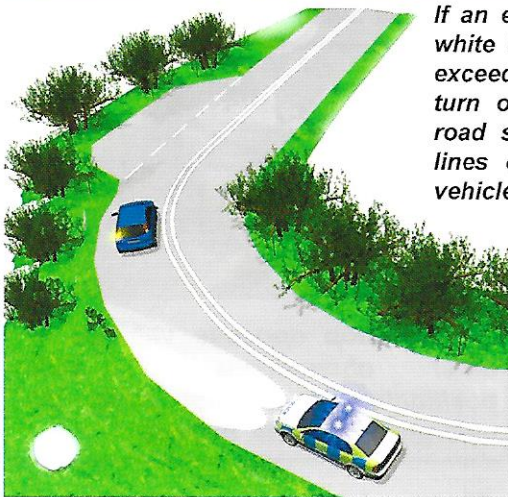


Similarly, if you are on a roundabout and see an emergency vehicle approaching, do not brake harshly to allow that vehicle to enter the roundabout. **Check your mirrors!** There may be a vehicle behind you that is unable to stop. If possible reduce speed gently without causing danger to yourself or other road users to allow the emergency vehicle to enter the roundabout.

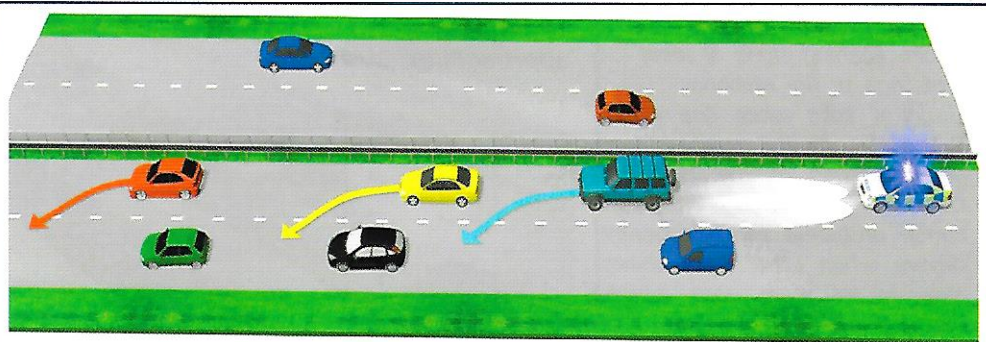
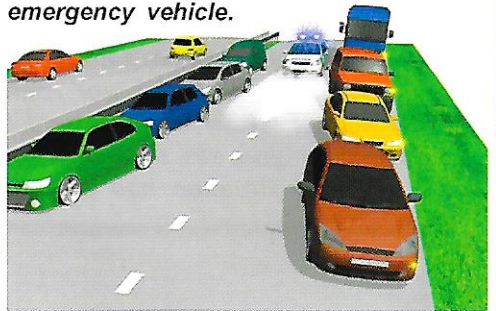


If an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind and you are travelling along a double white line system where the line nearer to you is solid, maintain a safe speed and do not exceed the limit. The emergency vehicle will hang back from your vehicle and may even turn off some of the emergency equipment. If you see an obvious area to pull off the road signal your intention to do so. At the end of the white line system or where the lines change priority find a safe place to stop or slow down to allow the emergency vehicle to pass.

Remember that for safety reasons, an emergency vehicle driver has no more right to cross a solid white line down the centre of the road than you.



Where the traffic is stationary, such as at traffic lights, or very slow moving on multi-laned roads, the emergency vehicle may straddle the lane markings. Other road users should then move in the appropriate direction to facilitate the progress of the emergency vehicle.



Where emergency vehicles are travelling on dual-carriageways or motorways drivers in front should move to their nearside lanes. This will allow the emergency vehicle to use the outer lane. When moving into the nearside lanes, drivers should signal their intentions and take care not to 'cut in' directly in front of a vehicle already in that lane.

INCIDENTS AHEAD: Listen and look out for incident support vehicles in the distance. Beware that emergency service staff may be working in the carriageway. Police vehicles will use rear-facing flashing red and blue lights and HATO support vehicles will use rear-facing flashing red and amber lights. Watch out for these signals, slow down and be prepared to stop. Be patient. Obey any directions given by Police officers or Traffic officers.



The emergency vehicles you are most likely to see as a driver belong to the Police, Fire or Ambulance services.

They can include marked and unmarked cars, motorcycles and pedal cycles as well as the specialised service vehicles you will be familiar with. On an emergency call these vehicles will display flashing blue lights. Other military and civil emergency services may employ vehicles with flashing blue lights, e.g. coastguard, RAF mountain rescue, blood and human organ transport services, bomb disposal units.



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This information supplements the general advice found in the Highway Code.

BLUE LIGHT EXEMPTIONS FROM REGULATIONS

While using **BLUE** lights, emergency vehicle drivers are exempt from a number of motoring regulations. This means they can:

- Treat a red traffic light as a give way sign.
- Pass the wrong side of a keep left bollard.
- Drive on a motorway hard shoulder (even against the direction of traffic).

IN ADDITION

Police, Fire and Ambulance services on emergency call may disobey the speed limit.

Drivers of emergency vehicles on call are **NOT** permitted to:

- Ignore a 'no entry' sign.
- Ignore a 'stop' or 'give way' sign.
- Drive the wrong way down a one-way street.
- Ignore flashing signs at level crossings or fire stations.
- Cross a solid white line down the centre of the road except as prescribed in the Highway Code for any driver. This can cause problems for emergency drivers when other road users slow to let them pass where road markings indicate no overtaking.

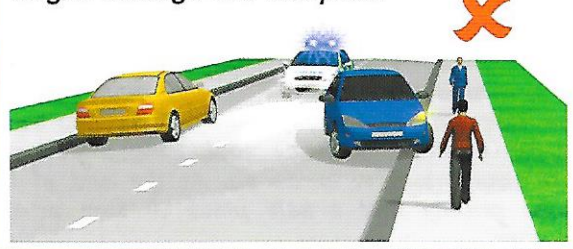
Drivers of emergency vehicles may need to disobey other road signs and regulations. They have discretion to use their professional judgment of the circumstances.

Highways Agency Traffic Officers (HATO) vehicles with flashing amber lights, and Doctors on emergency call with green flashing lights are not exempt from motoring regulations!

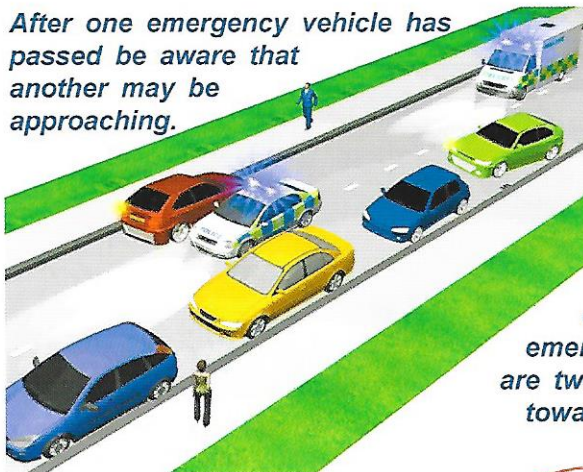
Members of the public giving precedence to emergency vehicles **MUST** comply with motoring regulations!



Do not mount kerbs in an effort to clear a path for emergency vehicles. You could endanger pedestrians or damage your vehicle! Larger vehicles might damage the footpath.



After one emergency vehicle has passed be aware that another may be approaching.



If you are about to emerge from a side road and see an emergency vehicle on the major road, do not try to emerge until it passes.



If your view at a junction is restricted and you **HEAR** sirens from an emergency vehicle on the major road, do not try to emerge until it passes or you are sure that the situation has cleared.

- **DO** keep a look out for emergency vehicles when you are driving or riding.
- **LISTEN** for sirens.
- **CHECK MIRRORS** frequently
 - in some circumstances emergency vehicles may not use sirens.
- **ASSESS** the position, speed and likely path of the emergency vehicle.
- **GIVE PRECEDENCE** when you can safely do so. **AVOID** stopping before the brow of a hill, a bend or narrow section of road.
- **DO** signal your intentions by indicators and/or brake lights.
- **DON'T** panic when you see an emergency vehicle behind you. If police wanted to stop your vehicle they would direct you to pull over to the side by pointing and/or using the left indicator.



Do not stop opposite vehicles or other obstructions if such positioning would not allow the emergency vehicle to pass.

Always check mirrors and listen for other sirens before moving off after an emergency vehicle has passed. When there are two or more emergency vehicles heading towards the same incident they should use different types of siren.