

Traffic Safety Spotlight FAQs

Slow Down. Move Over. Save Lives. On Florida roadways, emergency services include law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency medical services, Road Rangers, and other responders. These teams operate in active traffic conditions to protect lives and restore normal operations.



Sharing the Road with Emergency Responders

Q: What happens if I do not follow emergency vehicle laws?

A: Common violations include failing to move over, speeding, distracted driving, and ignoring responder directions. These actions can result in fines, points on a driver's license, and increased penalties if a crash or injury occurs.

Q: What should I do when I see an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens?

A: Drivers must immediately yield the right-of-way by pulling over to the nearest edge or curb of the roadway and stopping until the vehicle has passed.

Q: Can I continue driving if the emergency vehicle is behind me but not next to me?

A: No. Drivers must yield as soon as it is safe to do so, pulling over to the nearest edge or curb of the roadway and stopping until the vehicle has passed. Resume moving when it is clearly safe after the emergency vehicle passes.

Q: Can I follow closely behind an emergency vehicle to get through traffic?

A: No. Following too closely is unsafe and illegal. Drivers must maintain a safe distance.

Q: Can emergency vehicles go through red lights or stop signs?

A: Yes. Emergency vehicles may proceed through traffic control devices after slowing or stopping as necessary to ensure safe operation.

Q: What is the Move Over Law?

A: Drivers must move over one lane when approaching any vehicle parked on the side of the road with hazard lights flashing, emergency flares, or visible emergency signage. If unable to move over, drivers must reduce speed by at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit and proceed with caution.

Q: What are Road Rangers and what do they do?

A: Road Rangers (aka Service Patrol Vehicles) provide roadside assistance, help clear minor incidents, and support traffic control until emergency responders arrive.

Q: Why do emergency vehicles sometimes block lanes or the entire roadway?

A: Vehicles are positioned to protect responders, crash victims, and the scene. This creates a safety buffer and reduces the risk of secondary crashes.

Q: Why is it dangerous to drive through an active incident scene?

A: Incident scenes are unpredictable, with responders, equipment, and changing traffic patterns. Failure to slow down increases the risk of secondary crashes.

Q: Why are emergency lights sometimes overwhelming at night?

A: High-visibility lighting improves awareness but can reduce driver visibility. Slowing down helps maintain control and awareness.

