

Press Release



Save Lives and Pull Aside

Apache Junction, Arizona, January 13, 2015 – Every year there are hundreds of accidents involving emergency vehicles responding to incidents with their lights on or “Code 3”. These traffic collisions result in injuries and occasionally fatalities to citizens and officers alike. Apache Junction Police Department would like to educate our residents about what to do if they see an emergency vehicle approaching with its lights on so we can hopefully avoid these accidents in the future.

There are three incidents when an emergency vehicle responding Code 3 may be encountered.

INCIDENT 1: At an Intersection

If you hear a siren or see flashing lights at an intersection, you should:

- Stop at the stop bar or at the crosswalk if facing a traffic light signal;
- Yield the right-of-way when safely able to do so, which may mean driving through the intersection on a green light prior to pulling over to the right;
- Wait for all emergency vehicles to pass before getting back on the road. Remember, there may be more than one emergency vehicle responding Code 3; and
- If the operator of the emergency vehicle requests you to move in a certain direction via the public address (PA) system, please do so expeditiously.

1. **DON'T** panic!
2. **DON'T** pull into the intersection on a red light!
3. **DON'T** stop in the middle of the intersection

INCIDENT 2: On a Street

If you hear a siren or see flashing lights on a street, you should:

- Pull over to the right when safely able to do so;
- Slow down and stop to make a safe lane of passage for the emergency vehicle; and
- If the operator of the emergency vehicle requests you to move in a certain direction via the PA system, please do so expeditiously.

1. **DON'T** panic!
2. **DON'T** stop in the middle of the road!

INCIDENT 3: On a Freeway

If you hear a siren or see flashing lights on a freeway, you should:

- Pull over to the right when safely able to do so;
- Continue to move forward at a safe speed; and
- If the operator of the emergency vehicle requests you to move in a certain direction via the PA system, please do so expeditiously.

- 1. DON'T** panic!
- 2. DON'T** stop on the freeway!

Failing to yield to an emergency vehicle with its lights on can lead to heavy fines (currently the fine for failure to yield in Pinal County is \$219) and in extreme circumstances, loss of life.

Information on the current traffic laws can be found at <http://www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp>

Information for this article was collected from www.lapdonline.org.

Please contact Community Resource Coordinator Serene Carney with any questions or concerns. To learn more about programs and services at the Apache Junction Police Department, visit us at www.ajcity.net/Police or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ApacheJunctionPD or on Twitter @AJPoliceDept.

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