



*Frank Edwards*, Fire Chief

**PURPOSE**

While responding to an emergency, intersections are commonly the most dangerous areas along the route. Most emergency vehicle accidents occur at intersections.

**OBJECTIVE**

This guideline is intended to provide personnel with a course of action for the safe operation of all emergency vehicles and apparatus when negotiating intersections.

**SCOPE**

All Personnel

**NAVIGATING INTERSECTIONS**

Emergency vehicles shall come to a full and complete stop before entering a negative right-of-way intersection (red light, flashing red light, or stop sign), blind intersection, or any intersection where hazards are present. The emergency vehicle shall not enter the intersection until all approaching traffic has yielded the right-of-way and it is safe to proceed. The emergency vehicle driver shall ensure that all approaching vehicles in all lanes have yielded the right-of-way before advancing.

If necessary, due to traffic conditions or visual obstructions, the emergency vehicle driver shall cross the intersection in stages, treating each lane as a separate intersection. The driver shall stop the vehicle, as necessary, to ensure that each lane may be crossed safely.

When passing through an intersection where the emergency vehicle has the right-of-way, by virtue of a green light in the direction of travel and/or a stop signal (stop sign) for cross-traffic, the emergency vehicle shall not exceed the posted speed limit, and the driver shall "cover" the brake pedal with his/her foot while traveling through the intersection. Emergency vehicle drivers should not assume that oncoming/opposing traffic has stopped, even when facing a green signal or "clear" route; emergency vehicle drivers must visually confirm that oncoming/opposing traffic is stopped while approaching any intersection, and be prepared to stop immediately, if necessary.