

Airdrie RCMP Remind Motorists How to Yield to Emergency Vehicles

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Airdrie RCMP have noticed some confusion amongst motorists on how to proceed when nearby emergency vehicles and want to communicate a refresher to raise awareness and educate motorists.

Airdrie RCMP frequently encounter motorists whom do not know how to safely yield to emergency vehicles. Such scenarios arise when Police are trying to safely and urgently attend emergency situations within Airdrie city limits and rural areas. Failing to yield the right of way to an emergency vehicle in Alberta can lead to a \$233 fine. Even more importantly, it can have lethal consequences for first responders and the people they're trying to help.

Here are a few tips:

- Emergency vehicles have the right of way.
- On streets that have traffic flowing in both directions and lanes divided by a yellow line – motorists should pull over to the right curb and stop.
- On one-way streets or roads divided by a meridian, drivers should pull over to the right curb and stop.
- At intersections – look to see where the emergency vehicle is coming from. If the emergency vehicle is behind you, safely pull to the right. If the emergency vehicle is approaching from the front or sides, remain stopped until it passes and always scan for other emergency vehicles before proceeding.
- If you're approaching an intersection – safely pull to the right and stop before entering the intersection. Do not stop in the intersection.
- Once out of the way – stop until the emergency vehicle passes and check that no other emergency vehicles are approaching.
- Do not follow within 150 metres of an emergency vehicle that has its lights and siren operating.
- Always scan the roads in front and around you and check your rear view mirror regularly.
- Avoid distractions – cell phones, reading, and engaging in personal grooming/hygiene.
- Always remember to shoulder check and watch for other vehicles when pulling over.
- Please DO NOT pull over to the left as emergency vehicles will typically try to remain in the left lane whether it be on the highway or city streets.

The Airdrie RCMP wants to ensure that the public understands that emergency vehicles include: Police, Fire, and Ambulance vehicles.

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