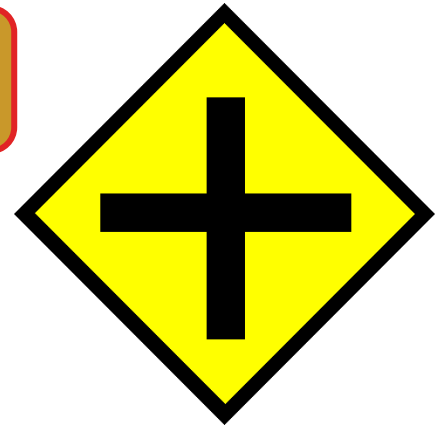




# Did YOU know?

## Intersections

One of the most hazardous and frequent tasks of an apparatus operator is to navigate intersections.



Emergency vehicles are granted the privilege of passing a red or stop signal only when using both audible and visual signals.

Apparatus entering an intersection must do so at a speed that would allow them to safely yield the right of way to a civilian vehicle to avoid a collision.

When approaching an intersection in traffic apparatus operators should be covering the brake pedal to reduce reaction time and anticipate the need to brake.

When entering an intersection against a traffic signal, each lane must be treated as a separate intersection. Account for traffic in each individual lane and never assume an approaching driver notices your apparatus.

Make eye contact with other drivers and watch their "body language" to anticipate their actions. Impatient or confused drivers often give warning signs that they are not going to yield to your apparatus.

On a multi-lane road be especially wary of lanes that are not yet controlled by vehicles that have yielded to you. Drivers further back in traffic may see the open lane as an opportunity to accelerate through the intersection to bypass the stopped vehicles. The open lane also enables traffic to approach at higher rates of speed. Further complicating the situation is traffic that is already stopped obscuring your view of the oncoming vehicle or the oncoming vehicle's view of you. People see a green light and want to GO.

Account for all lanes, including turn lanes, before fully committing to an intersection. Recognize that civilian drivers may not always do the right thing, such as using a turn lane to circumvent stopped cars, running a yellow or red light, or simply electing to not yield the right-of-way to you.

Know the response patterns of surrounding apparatus. Look and listen for other converging units as you approach intersections. Anticipate other units approaching the scene, including police. If you have known convergence points within your normal run routes consider announcing your approach on the radio to forewarn other units.

Slow well ahead of intersections and allow other drivers an opportunity to hear, see, and react to your approach. As a running back in football allows the play to develop ahead of them, you too should be giving traffic a chance to make their move before you work your way through.

All personnel on the apparatus need to be scanning for hazards during transit.