

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

*Standard Operating Guidelines*

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**3300.040**

**Passing Traffic**

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### **PURPOSE**

When responding to an emergency incident, emergency vehicles must navigate around vehicles that have yielded the right-of-way, vehicles that have not, and periodically, other emergency vehicles.

### **OBJECTIVE**

This guideline is intended to establish safe practices that address when an emergency vehicle must pass traffic moving in the same direction.

### **SCOPE**

All Personnel

### **PASSING TRAFFIC**

When responding to an emergency and overtaking traffic that is moving in the same direction, the emergency vehicle driver shall give other drivers plenty of opportunity to yield the right-of-way before passing. Emergency vehicle drivers must understand that the soundproofing qualities found in today's automobiles can effectively insulate drivers from the audible warning devices of an approaching emergency vehicle. If it is necessary to pass a vehicle that has not yielded the right-of-way, the emergency vehicle shall provide as much clearance as possible.

Emergency vehicle drivers shall not employ aggressive driving techniques to force other drivers to yield the right-of-way. Emergency vehicles must be operated with due regard for the safety of civilian traffic at all times, and under all circumstances; the elimination of aggressive driving techniques is also critical for protecting the safety of other crew members assigned to the vehicle.

### **PASSING OTHER EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

While responding to an emergency, a fire department vehicle shall not overtake another emergency vehicle that is traveling in the same direction, unless the driver of the passing vehicle has made radio contact with the lead vehicle and the lead vehicle has indicated that it is safe to pass.

Overtaking other responding emergency vehicles should only be done if deemed absolutely necessary due to extenuating circumstances, or for the necessary tactical placement of vehicles and/or apparatus at the emergency scene.