



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 51/2021

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EMERGENCY VEHICLES - BE A SAFE DRIVER!

Key Message

Drivers of emergency vehicles are subject to the regulations and laws detailed in WA Road Traffic Legislation and are to adhere to the DFES driving standards outlined in SOP 3.3.1 and the DFES0470 On-Road Driving Course.

What's been happening?

There has been a significant increase in the instances of vehicle collisions and/or near misses. Specifically:

- Light Tankers colliding with the rear of the Pump and;
- Collisions or near misses with other road users.

What do I need to do?

All drivers of emergency vehicles should be familiar with the Road Traffic Act 1974 and Road Traffic Code 2000. In addition, drivers of emergency vehicles should revise DFES [SOP 3.3.1 - Respond Under Emergency Conditions](#) and implement the instructions provided within the DFES0470 On-Road Driving Course.

- **Light Tankers colliding with the rear of the Pump**

It is essential that drivers maintain sufficient space between vehicles. A safe following distance depends on your speed, weather, road conditions and type of vehicle you are driving. In good conditions, you should drive at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front of you. This will ensure capacity to stop and avoid impacting the vehicle ahead. It is equally important for drivers of emergency vehicles to fully understand how their appliance responds in an emergency situation and take appropriate actions as required.

- **Collisions or near misses with other road users**

Drivers of emergency vehicles must exercise utmost caution when negotiating intersections and other traffic hazards against any signage, controlled traffic signals or road markings (including executing U-turns). When planning a maneuver and after ensuring it is safe to do so, it is important to anticipate the potential actions of other road users. To minimise risk, always take action that assumes you may not be given right of way by other road users.

Further information

Click [here](#) for the Road Safety Commission's information video on following distance.

CRAIG WATERS AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience: All staff and volunteers who drive emergency response vehicles.				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
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