



# Public Safety

## News and Tips

### Emergency Vehicles



## Sirens and Lights- Pull to the Right

You look in your rear view mirror and see red lights, or you may hear sirens. Your heart starts to race when you think you are about to be pulled over. Don't panic! Don't slam on the brakes! In most cases, the **emergency vehicle is just trying to get around you. Look ahead for a safe spot to pull over.** Use your signal light to let the drivers around you know what you are doing. Once the emergency vehicle has passed take a moment to reassess the situation before pulling out into traffic. Be careful! **There may be other emergency vehicles following behind the first one.** The California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offer the following tips to motorists when they encounter red lights and sirens.



### At an Intersection

Sometimes you will **hear the siren** before you see the emergency vehicle and you may be unable to determine the direction of the siren. If this occurs **at an intersection** take extra time and **locate the source before proceeding through.**

If you **hear a siren or see flashing lights** at an intersection, you should:

- **Stop at the limit line** or at the crosswalk, if facing a red tri-light signal.
- **Yield the right-of-way** when safely able to do so, which may mean driving through the intersection on a green light prior to pulling to the right.
- **Wait for all emergency vehicles** to pass before pulling back onto the road.
  - **DON'T** panic!
  - **DON'T** pull into the intersection on a red light.
  - **DON'T** stop in the middle of the intersection.

### On a Street

When you hear a siren or see flashing lights on a street, you should:

- **Pull over** to the right when safely able to do so.
- **Slow down** and stop to make a safe lane of passage for the emergency vehicle.
  - **DON'T** panic!
  - **DON'T stop** in the middle of the road.

### On a Freeway

If you hear a siren or see flashing lights on a freeway, you should:

- **Pull over to the right** when safely able to do so.
- **Continue to move forward** at a safe speed.
  - **DON'T** panic!
  - **DON'T stop** on the freeway

If you are being followed by a police car which requires you to stop, remember to find a safe place to pull over and once stopped you should turn off your engine. Remain calm and courteous to the police officer at all times and be prepared to produce your driver's license, proof of insurance, registration, and any other requested documents.



### California Vehicle Code

- **21806(a)(1) CVC**  
When approached by an emergency vehicle, which is **sounding a siren and displaying a forward facing red-light (Code 3)**, all vehicular traffic shall **yield to the right-of-way and drive to the right side** of the roadway and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- **21806(a)(2) CVC**  
When approached by an **emergency vehicle** that is responding **Code 3** in a carpool lane, **all vehicles shall exit the lane immediately.**

- **21806 (c)**  
When approached by an **emergency vehicle that is responding Code 3**, all **pedestrians** upon the roadway shall **yield the right-of-way and proceed to the nearest curb** or place of safety and remain there until the emergency vehicle has passed.

**Call 911  
EMERGENCY  
IN PROGRESS**

**NON-EMERGENCY**  
Fire (916) 774-5800  
Police (916)-774-5000  
Extension 1

**Police Department**  
1051 Junction Blvd.  
Roseville C A 95678  
(916) 774-5000  
[www.roseville.ca.us/police](http://www.roseville.ca.us/police)

**Fire Headquarters**  
401 Oak Street, Fire  
Station #1  
Roseville, CA 95678  
(916) 774-5800  
[www.roseville.ca.us/fire](http://www.roseville.ca.us/fire)

**Abandoned Vehicle  
Hotline**  
(916) 746-1022

**Alarms/Alarm  
Permits**  
(916) 774-5093

**Animal Control**  
(916)774-5090

**Community Events  
& Neighborhood  
Watch**  
(916) 774-5050

**Graffiti Abatement**  
(916) 746-1021

**Police news &  
crime alert emails:**  
[www.roseville.ca.us/notify](http://www.roseville.ca.us/notify)

**RCONA**  
(Roseville Coalition of  
Neighborhood  
Associations)  
[www.RCONA.org](http://www.RCONA.org)

# Public Safety News & Tips

## Distracted Driving



### What is Distracted Driving?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) **distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving.** You are distracted when you take your eyes off the road, your hand off the wheel, or your mind off of driving. Anything you do behind the wheel besides driving could be a potentially dangerous distraction and increases your change of crashing.

**Some types of distractions include:**

- **Texting**
- Using a **cell phone** or smartphone
- **Eating** and drinking
- **Grooming**
- **Reading**, including maps
- Using a **navigation system**
- **Watching** a video
- **Adjusting** a radio, CD Player, or MP3 player

Since **text messaging** requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is **amongst the most dangerous distractions.** According to the AAA Foundation **distractions while driving contribute to 16% of all fatal crashes,** which amounts to **5,000 deaths each year.** The study further showed that **teen drivers were distracted almost a quarter of the time they were behind the wheel.** If you are the parent of a teen driver, make sure you talk to him/her often about the dangers of distracted driving.

### Wireless Communication Devices and Wireless Telephone Laws

“Electronic Wireless Communications Device Law” (CVC 23123.5): A **person shall not drive** a motor vehicle **while using** an electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication **unless** the device is specifically designed and configured to allow **voice operated and hands-free** operation to dictate, send or listen to a text based communication, and it used in that manner while driving.

Here are two other laws dealing with wireless telephones while driving:

1. **CVC 23123 prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone** while operating a motor vehicle. Motorists 18 and over **may use a “hands free” device.**
2. **CVC 23124 prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless telephone or hands-free device** while operating a motor vehicle.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: **What if** I need to use my telephone during **an emergency**, and I don't have a hands-free device?

A: The law **allows a driver** to use a wireless telephone to **make emergency calls** to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department, or other **emergency services** agency.

Q: **What is the fine** if I'm convicted?

A: The base line for the **FIRST offense is \$20 and \$50** for subsequent convictions. With **penalty assessments,** the fine can be **more than triple** the base fine amount.

Q: Will the **conviction appear on my driving record?**

A: **Yes,** but the violation point will not be added.

Q: **Can I be pulled over** by a law enforcement officer for **using my handheld** wireless telephone/wireless communication device?

A: **Yes.** A law enforcement officer can pull you over just for the infraction.

(For a complete version of the above vehicle codes visit the California DMV website at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov))



### Facts and Statistics

- **11% of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes** were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted.
- For drivers **under the age of 19** years old involved in **fatal crashes, 21 %** of the distracted drivers were **distracted** by the use of **cell phones.**
- At **any given moment** across America, approximately **660,000 drivers** are **using cell phones** or manipulating electronic devices while driving.
- **Sending or receiving a text** takes a driver's eyes away from the road an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of **driving the length of an entire football field blind (at 55 mph).**
- **A quarter of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive.** 20% of teens and 10% of parents admit they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving.
- Engaging in visual-manual tasks (such as **reaching for a cell phone, dialing and texting**) associated with the use of handheld phones and other portable devices **increased the risk of getting into a crash three times.**

Source: [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov)



**Resources** CA Department of Motor Vehicle, AAA Foundation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Fire Protection Association

The "Public Safety News & Tips" is published for City of Roseville's residents by the Community Relations Division of the Roseville Police and Fire Departments. Please send comments or suggestions to [pdcommunityservices@roseville.ca.us](mailto:pdcommunityservices@roseville.ca.us), (916) 774-5050, or contact Rob Baquera at [rbaquera@roseville.ca.us](mailto:rbaquera@roseville.ca.us) or (916) 774-5057