

Question on Notice No. 966, Wednesday, 1 September 2004

Ms BARRY asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -
What is the appropriate procedure for motorists to follow when an emergency vehicle approaches?

Mr CUMMINS:

I thank the Member for her Question and would like to congratulate her on her ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within her electorate.

Traffic regulations state that drivers must give way to, or move out of the path of emergency vehicles using lights and sirens when it is safe to do so. The basic rules motorists need to remember are

1. Look and Listen – If you hear a siren turn your radio off
2. Don't panic – If you cannot move out of the way safely, remain calm and wait until the emergency vehicle gets around you.
3. Merge left – But do not damage your vehicle to move out of the way, and never go through railway stop lights or boom gates.

The basic procedure is that people should not panic and should move out of the way only when it is safe to do so.

We often get asked about what happens to people if they break a traffic rule to let emergency vehicles through, the short answer is that if they can do so safely, and justify their actions they will not get a ticket. This includes moving through red lights if they are absolutely certain it is safe to do so.