

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

BULLETIN NO. 91

SEPTEMBER 2006 (Revised)

Bulletin No. 91 revises and replaces Old Bulletin No. 24 issued January 1982.

**EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS
EXCERPTS FROM DCMR TITLE 18**

The following Sections are quoted from the 1981 publication, District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) 'Title 18, Vehicles and Traffic' for the information of the Department.

712 AUDIBLE AND VISUAL SIGNALS

712.1 The Director may register as an authorized emergency vehicle the vehicles of any fire or police department, any ambulance, and any other official government-owned vehicle used for the emergency care or preservation of life, health, and property.

712.2 Each authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by these regulations, be equipped with a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving a signal audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet (500') and of a type approved by the Director; and with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light capable of flashing alternately and visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the front of the vehicle.

712.4 Whenever an emergency vehicle is equipped with a siren, the siren shall not be used except when the vehicle is being operated in response to an emergency call; or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which case, the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

714 ADDITIONAL LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

714.7 Warning lights shall be visible at right from distance of not less than fifteen hundred feet (1500) under normal atmospheric conditions.

2001 APPLICABILITY OF REGULATIONS TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

2001.1 The provisions of this subtitle which are applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, the District of Columbia or any state, county, city, town, district, or any other political subdivision of any state, except as provided in this section, and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth in this subtitle reference to authorized emergency vehicles.

2002 EXEMPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES

2002.1 The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may exercise the privilege set forth in this section, subject to the conditions contained in this Section, in the following circumstances:

- (a) When responding to an emergency call.
- (b) When in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law:
- (c) When responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm

200.2 In those circumstances authorized in subsection 2002.1, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may do any of the following:

- (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this subtitle;
- (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (c) Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as it does not endanger life or property; except that this provision does not apply to ambulances;
- (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

2002.3 The exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of the vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle is equipped as specified in section 712 of this title.

2002.4 The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall these provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others

2200 SPEED RESTRICTIONS

2200.3 No person shall drive a vehicle on a street or highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing.

2200.4 In every event speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle, or other conveyance on or entering the street or highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care.

2210 **EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND APPARATUS**

2210.1 Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and visual signals meeting the requirements of this title, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection, and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer,

2210.3 This section shall not operate to relieve the driver of an authorized vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

2210.4 The driver of any vehicle other than one on official business shall not follow any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

2210.5 No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a fire department when laid down on any street, private driveway, or streetcar track to be used at any fire or alarm of fire without the consent of a police or fire department official.

2405 **STOPPING, STANDING, OR PARKING PROHIBITED: NO SIGN REQUIRED**

2405.2 No person shall stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, in any of the following places (including for the purpose of loading or unloading materials) , except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or at the direction of a police officer, traffic control sign, or signal; provided, that a vehicle may stop momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger or passengers.

(a) Within ten feet (10') of a fire hydrant.

(b) Within twenty feet (20') of a fire station driveway entrance.