

Location\_\_\_\_\_Trainer\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

## **DEFENSIVE DRIVING BASICS BUSES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

Because these vehicles are so important to the safety of our society, there are special laws for driving around buses and emergency vehicles such as police cars, fire engines or ambulances. While it's important to get to know the laws as they apply in your state, the following safety procedures apply in most cases.

### **Buses**

When approaching a stopped bus from behind, slow down and pass at no more than 10 miles per hour. If you must move into another lane to pass the bus, do so only when the lane is clear. Watch for pedestrians who may be trying to cross the street after getting off the bus.

### **School Buses—A Special Case**

Children and traffic are an especially dangerous mix. That's why many states have special laws for driving around school buses. When approaching a school bus, slow down. If the bus's amber lights are flashing, the bus is about to stop. When the bus is stopped, the red lights are flashing. Most states require you to stop if the red lights are flashing or the stop arm is extended out from the left side of the bus. This applies to traffic going in both directions on the road.

### **Emergency Vehicles**

You must yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles. If you hear a siren or see a flashing light, pull over as far as possible to the right, and stop until the vehicle has passed. Don't stop in an intersection. If you're blocked from moving right, stay where you are. Usually the emergency vehicle can pass you on the left. If necessary, the vehicle's driver may give you instructions by loudspeaker.

Many state prohibit following within 300 feet of an emergency vehicle when its siren and lights are on. It may also be illegal to deliberately go to the scene of an emergency. If you find yourself on the scene of a disaster, get away as quickly as possible, being careful not to run over unprotected fire hoses.