

MISSISSIPPI STATUTES

“Emergency Vehicle”

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Source:

Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 17. RIGHT-OF-WAY /§ 63-3-809. Procedure upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles; duty of driver of emergency vehicle.

§ 63-3-809. Procedure upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles; duty of driver of emergency vehicle.

(1) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle, when the driver is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell, 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 highway 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.

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

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8199; Laws, 1938, ch. 200.

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Source:

Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 3. DEFINITIONS / VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND THE LIKE DEFINED /§ 63-3-103. Vehicles.

§ 63-3-103. Vehicles.

- (a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.
- (b) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails. The term "motor vehicle" shall not include electric personal assistive mobility devices.
- (c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a tractor.
- (d) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means every vehicle of the fire department (fire patrol), every police vehicle, every 911 Emergency Communications District vehicle, every such ambulance and special use EMS vehicle as defined in [Section 41-59-3](#), and every emergency vehicle of municipal departments or public service corporations as is designated or authorized by the commission or the chief of police of an incorporated city.
- (e) "School bus" means every motor vehicle operated for the transportation of children to or from any school, provided same is plainly marked "School Bus" on the front and rear thereof and meets the requirements of the State Board of Education as authorized under [Section 37-41-1](#).
- (f) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular type unit primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping or travel use, which either has its own motive power or is mounted on or drawn by another vehicle and includes travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, camping trailers, truck campers and motor homes.
- (g) "Motor home" means a motor vehicle that is designed and constructed primarily to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping or travel use.
- (h) "Electric assistive mobility device" means a self-balancing two-tandem wheeled device, designed to transport only one (1) person, with an electric propulsion system that limits the maximum speed of the device to fifteen (15) miles per hour.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8127; Laws, 1938, ch. 200; Laws, 1973, ch. 338, § 1; Laws, 1976, ch. 348; Laws, 1980, ch. 316, § 2; Laws, 1983, ch. 350, § 1; Laws, 1986, ch. 459, § 35; Laws, 2000, ch. 318, § 1; Laws, 2003, ch. 485, § 9; Laws, 2004, ch. 425, § 3, eff from and after July 1, 2004.

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 11. RESTRICTIONS ON SPEED; USE OF RADAR /§ 63-3-517. Applicability of speed restrictions to emergency vehicles; duties of drivers of emergency vehicles.

§ 63-3-517. Applicability of speed restrictions to emergency vehicles; duties of drivers of emergency vehicles.

The speed limitations set forth in this article shall not apply to authorized emergency vehicles when responding to emergency calls and the drivers thereof sound audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle. 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 using the street, nor shall it protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequence of a reckless disregard of the safety of others.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8180; Laws, 1938, ch. 200; Laws, 1948, ch. 328, § 4.

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 7. TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND MARKINGS /§ 63-3-315. Obedience of official traffic-control devices by emergency vehicles.

§ 63-3-315. Obedience of official traffic-control devices by emergency vehicles.

The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign shall slow down as necessary for safety but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal. At other times drivers of authorized emergency vehicles shall stop in obedience to a stop sign or signal.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8148; Laws, 1938, ch. 200.

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 13. DRIVING ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY: OVERTAKING AND PASSING; FOLLOWING /§ 63-3-621. Distance to be maintained between vehicle and traveling or parked fire apparatus.

§ 63-3-621. Distance to be maintained between vehicle and traveling or parked fire apparatus.

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 (500) feet or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. The driver of any vehicle other than an official emergency vehicle shall not follow any moving ambulance that is engaged in an emergency medical call closer than five hundred (500) feet, or park the vehicle within two hundred (200) feet of where the ambulance has stopped to pick up or deliver a patient or otherwise render care at the scene of an ambulance call.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8223; Laws, 1938, ch. 200; Laws, 2004, ch. 425, § 4, eff from and after July 1, 2004.

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

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 3 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND RULES OF THE ROAD /ARTICLE 19. STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING /§ 63-3-913. Designation of areas of private property as restricted for emergency vehicle access; parking in or blocking restricted access areas.

§ 63-3-913. Designation of areas of private property as restricted for emergency vehicle access; parking in or blocking restricted access areas.

- (1) The designation of areas on private property which are clearly marked to restrict access thereto to emergency vehicles shall be considered permission by the owner of such property that law enforcement officers may enter such private property to enforce such restricted access; and all municipal, county and state law enforcement officers are authorized to enforce such restriction.
- (2) It is unlawful to park a motor vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle responding to an emergency, in an area which has been marked as provided in subsection (1) of this section; and any person who unlawfully parks a motor vehicle in such an area or who blocks access thereto is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each violation. For the third and any subsequent offense under this section, the offender's driver's license shall be suspended for ninety (90) days in accordance with [Section 63-1-53](#), Mississippi Code of 1972, in addition to any fine imposed.
- (3) For the purpose of this section "emergency vehicle" means fire department vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances and any other vehicle designated as an emergency vehicle by the governing authority of the county or municipality within which the private property is located.

Sources: Laws, 1995, ch. 461, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 1995.

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 7 EQUIPMENT AND IDENTIFICATION / GENERAL PROVISIONS /§ 63-7-20. Use of blue and red lights and alternating flashing headlights.

§ 63-7-20. Use of blue and red lights and alternating flashing headlights.

- (1) It is unlawful for any person, other than a law enforcement officer on duty, to use or display blue lights on a motor vehicle as provided for in [Section 63-7-19](#).
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to use or display red lights on a motor vehicle except as provided for in [Section 63-7-19](#). It is not unlawful for the red lights authorized for private or department-owned vehicles used by firemen of volunteer fire departments, as provided in [Section 63-7-19](#), to remain mounted on such vehicles when the lights are not in use.
- (3) It is unlawful for any vehicle to use alternating flashing headlights except an emergency vehicle as provided in [Section 63-7-19](#).
- (4) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8229-08.5; Laws, 1972, ch. 352, § 1; Laws, 1979, ch. 398, § 2; Laws, 1987, ch. 333, § 2; Laws, 1994, ch. 517, § 2; Laws, 1995, ch. 581, § 2; Laws, 1997, ch. 565, § 1, eff from and after passage (approved April 23, 1997).

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Mississippi Code/TITLE 63 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS /CHAPTER 7
EQUIPMENT AND IDENTIFICATION / GENERAL PROVISIONS /§ 63-7-65. Horns and other warning
devices.

§ 63-7-65. Horns and other warning devices.

- (1) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than two hundred (200) feet. The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn upon a highway. No horn or other warning device shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle.
- (2) Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred (500) feet and of a type approved by the department. No such siren shall be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which said latter events the driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.
- (3) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. No bicycle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.
- (4) Any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.

Sources: Codes, 1942, § 8250; Laws, 1938, ch. 200; Laws, 1994, ch. 324, § 1, eff from and after July 1, 1994.

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