

# Central Joint Fire District

## Standard Operating Procedure



Central Joint Fire District

SUBJECT: Driving - Ohio Revised Code (ORC)

SOP Number: 412A  
Effective Date: 1/8/92  
Revised Date:  
Approved:

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this standard is to define the Ohio Revised Code sections under which all department vehicles are to be operated under. This standard is not designed to be all inclusive. There may be other standards which also apply or supersede this standard.

**SCOPE:** This standard applies to all department members who operate public safety vehicles.

### DEFINITIONS:

4511.01 Definitions. As used in sections 4511.01 to 4511.80 and 4511.99 of the Revised Code:

(D) "Emergency vehicle" means emergency vehicles of municipal, township, or county departments or public utility corporations when identified as such as required by law, the Director of Highway Safety, or local authorities, and motor vehicles when commandeered by a police officer.

(E) "Public safety vehicle" means any of the following:

- 1) Ambulances, including private ambulance companies under contract to a municipal corporation, township, or county;
- 2) Motor vehicles used by public law enforcement officers or other persons sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state;
- 3) Any motor vehicle when properly identified as required by the Director of Highway Safety, when used in response to fire emergency calls or to provide emergency medical service to ill or injured persons, and when operated by a duly qualified person who is a member of a volunteer rescue service or volunteer fire department, and who is on duty pursuant to the rules or directives of that service. The State Fire Marshal shall be designated by the Director of Highway Safety as the certifying agency for all public safety vehicles described in division (E)(3) of this section.
- 4) Vehicles used by fire departments, including motor vehicles when used by volunteer firemen responding to emergency calls in the fire department service and when identified as required by the Director of Highway Safety.

Any vehicle used to transport or provide emergency medical service to an ill or injured person, when certified as a public safety vehicle, shall be considered a public safety vehicle when transporting an ill or injured person to a hospital regardless of whether such vehicle has already passed a hospital.

(UU) "Right of way" means the right of a vehicle, streetcar, trackless trolley, or pedestrian to proceed uninterruptedly in a lawful manner in the direction in which it or he is moving in preference to another vehicle, streetcar, trackless trolley, or pedestrian approaching from a different direction into its or his path.

APPLICATION:

4511.03 Emergency vehicles, response to stop signs and other signals

The driver of any emergency vehicle or public safety 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 to traffic, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.

4511.24 Speed limitation, emergency vehicles

The prima-facie speed limitations set forth in Section 4511.21 of the Revised Code do not apply to emergency vehicles or public safety vehicles when they are responding to emergency calls and are equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating, or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of the vehicle and when the drivers thereof sound audible signals by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle. This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.

4511.45 Public safety vehicles, right-of-way

Upon the approach of a public safety vehicle, equipped with at least one flashing, rotating, or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle and the driver is giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or bell, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right of way, immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection, and stop and remain in such position until the public safety vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

This section does not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway.

4511.451 Funeral procession has right of way

As used in this section "funeral procession" means two or more vehicles accompanying a body of a deceased person in the daytime when each of such vehicle has its headlights sighted and is displaying a purple and white pennant attached to each vehicle in such a manner as to be clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction.

Excepting public safety vehicles processing in accordance with section 4511.45 of the Revised Code or when directed otherwise by a police officer, pedestrians and the operators of all vehicles, street cars, trackless trolleys shall yield the right of way to each vehicle which is part of a funeral procession.

4511.452 Pedestrians yield right of way to public safety vehicle

(A) Upon the immediate approach of a public safety vehicle, as stated in section 4511.45 of the Revised Code, every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the public safety vehicle.

(B) This section shall not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian. History: 135 V H 995 (Effec. 1-1-75).

4511.72 Clear distance from rear of emergency vehicle

The driver of any vehicle, other than an emergency or public safety vehicle on official business, shall not follow any emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle traveling in response to an alarm closer than five hundred feet, or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm, unless directed to do so by a police officer or fireman.

4511.73 Unprotected fire hoses, driving over

No street car, trackless trolley, or vehicle shall, without the consent of the fire department official in command, be driven over any unprotected fire hose of a fire department, when said hose is laid down on any street, private driveway, or streetcar track to be used at any fire or alarm of fire.

4513.17 Lights permitted; flashing and red lights

(C) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except as a means for indicating a right or a left turn, or in the presence of vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, or overtaking or passing. This prohibition does not apply to emergency vehicles, road service vehicles or towing a disabled vehicle, traffic line strippers, snow plows, rural mail delivery vehicles, vehicles as provided for in Section 4513.182 of the Revised Code, Department of Transportation maintenance vehicles, funeral hearses, funeral escort vehicles, and similar equipment operated by the department or local authorities, which shall be equipped with and display, when used on a street or highway for the special purpose necessitating such lights, a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light, but shall not display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating light of any other color, nor to vehicles or machinery permitted by Section 4513.11 of the Revised Code to have a flashing red light.

(D) Except a person operating a public safety vehicle, as defined in division (E) of Section 4511.01 of the Revised Code, or a school bus, no person shall operate, move, or park upon, or permit to stand within the right-of-way of any public street or highway any vehicle or equipment which is equipped with an displaying a flashing red or a flashing combination red and white light, or an oscillating or rotating red light, or combination red and white oscillating or rotating light.

4513.21 Warning devices, sirens and horns

Every emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, whistle, or warning bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet and type approved by the Director of Highway Safety. Such equipment shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or is in the immediate pursuit of an actual (or) suspected violator of the law, in which case the driver of the emergency vehicle shall sound such equipment when it is necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

Additional References -

- 4513.182 Addresses lights on school buses
- 4513.263 Specifications for safety belts - Repealed
- 4513.11 Lights on slow moving vehicles, emblems, animal drawn vehicles