

Yielding to and passing emergency vehicles

§545.156 - VEHICLE APPROACHED BY AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE

- a) On the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible and visual signals..., or of a police vehicle lawfully using only an audible signal, an operator, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:
 - 1) yield the right-of-way;
 - 2) 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
 - 3) stop and remain standing until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed.
- b) This section does not exempt the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

§545.157 - PASSING AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE

- a) This section applies only to the following vehicles:
 - 1) a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using visual signals that meet the requirements of Sections 547.305 and 547.702;
 - 2) a stationary tow truck using equipment authorized by Section 547.305(d); and
 - 3) a Texas Department of Transportation vehicle not separated from the roadway by a traffic control channelizing device and using visual signals that comply with the standards and specifications adopted under Section 547.105.
- b) On approaching a vehicle described by Subsection (a), an operator, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:
 - 1) vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle when driving on a highway with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle; or
 - 2) slow to a speed not to exceed:
 - A. 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or more; or
 - B. five miles per hour when the posted speed limit is less than 25 miles per hour.
- c) A violation of this section is:
 - 1) a misdemeanor punishable under Section 542.401;
 - 2) a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 if the violation results in property damage; or
 - 3) a Class B misdemeanor if the violation results in bodily injury.
- d) If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under another section of this code or the Penal Code, the actor may be prosecuted under either section or under both sections.

