



# FOCUS ON SAFETY, NOT SPEED AT INTERSECTIONS

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*"Due regard" is defined: (by how a reasonably careful person performing under similar circumstances would act*

## **New Mexico Traffic Statute 66-7-6. Authorized emergency vehicles.**

A. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section subject to the conditions stated. The chief of the New Mexico state police or the appropriate local agency may designate emergency vehicles and revoke the designation. When vehicles are so designated, they are authorized emergency vehicles.

B. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

(1) park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code [Articles 1 to 8 of Chapter 66, except 66-7-102.1 NMSA 1978];

(2) proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safe operation;

(3) exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property; and

(4) disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

C. The exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the driver of the vehicle, while in motion, sounds an audible signal by bell, siren or exhaust whistle as reasonably necessary and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of the vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

*D. This section does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor does it protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.*

