

ARTICLE 7
TRAFFIC LAWS; SIGNS, SIGNALS AND MARKINGS; ACCIDENTS; WEIGHT AND
SIZE; TRAFFIC SAFETY

Editors note: Various components of the Traffic Code (Article 7) for Emergency Vehicles are listed here. The entire code should be referenced as needed.

66-1-4.1. Definitions.

E. "authorized emergency vehicle" means any fire department vehicle, police vehicle, ambulance and any emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public utilities that are designated or authorized as emergency vehicles by the director of the New Mexico state police division of the department of public safety or local authorities.

66-3-835. Special restrictions on lamps.

A. Lighted lamps or illuminating devices upon a motor vehicle other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps and school bus warning lamps, which project a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred candlepower shall be directed so that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam strikes the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.

B. No person shall drive or move, upon any highway, any vehicle or equipment with a lamp or device thereon displaying a red light visible from directly in front of the center of the vehicle or equipment. This section does not apply to any vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by the Motor Vehicle Code.

C. Flashing lights are prohibited except as provided in Subsection D of this section and except on authorized emergency vehicles, school buses, snow-removal equipment and highway-marking equipment. Flashing red lights may be used as warning lights on disabled or parked vehicles and on any vehicle as a means of indicating a turn.

D. Tow cars standing on highways for the purpose of removing, and actually engaged in removing, disabled vehicles, and while engaged in towing any disabled vehicle, may display flashing lights. This shall not be construed as permitting the use of flashing lights by tow cars in going to or returning from the location of disabled vehicles unless actually engaged in towing a disabled vehicle.

E. Only fire department vehicles, law enforcement agency vehicles, ambulances and school buses shall display flashing red lights visible from the front of the vehicle. All other vehicles authorized by the Motor Vehicle Code to display flashing lights visible from the front of the vehicle may use any other color of light that is visible.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-3-835, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 141.

66-3-843. Horns and warning devices.

- A. 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 feet, but no horn or other warning device shall be used which does not produce a harmonious sound. The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.
- B. 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.
- C. It is permissible, but not required, that any commercial vehicle 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.
- D. 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 feet and of a type approved by the division, but such siren shall not 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 said siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-3-843, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 149.

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.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-7-6, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 376; 1989, ch. 318, § 22.

66-7-332. Operation of vehicles on approach of authorized emergency vehicles.

A. Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle other than a police vehicle when operated as an authorized emergency vehicle, and 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 roadway 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.

B. 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.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-7-332, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 436.

66-7-351. Stopping, standing or parking prohibited in specified places.

A. No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic-control device, in any of the following places:

- (1) on a sidewalk;
- (2) in front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) within an intersection;
- (4) within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant;
- (5) on a crosswalk;
- (6) within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (7) within thirty feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway;
- (8) between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within thirty feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the end [ends] of a safety zone, unless the traffic authority indicates a different length by signs or markings;
- (9) within fifty feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;
- (10) within twenty feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet of said entrance, when properly signposted;
- (11) alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (12) on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (13) upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel; or
- (14) at any place where official signs prohibit stopping.

B. No person shall move a vehicle not lawfully under his control into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-7-351, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 455.

66-7-352. Additional parking regulations.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there are adjacent curbs shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of such vehicle parallel to and within eighteen inches of the right-hand curb.

B. Local authorities may by ordinance permit parking of vehicles within [with] the left-hand wheels adjacent to and within eighteen inches of the left-hand curb of a one-way roadway.

C. Local authorities may by ordinance permit angle parking on any roadway, except that angle parking shall not be permitted on any federal-aid or state highway unless the state highway commission has determined by resolution or order entered in its minutes that the roadway is of sufficient width to permit angle parking without interfering with the free movement of traffic.

D. The state highway commission with respect to highways under its jurisdiction may place signs prohibiting or restricting the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles on any highway where in its opinion, as evidenced by resolution or order entered in its minutes, such stopping, standing or parking is dangerous to those using the highway or where the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would unduly interfere with the free movement of traffic thereon. Such signs shall be official signs and no person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle in violation of the restrictions stated on such signs.

History: 1953 Comp., § 64-7-352, enacted by Laws 1978, ch. 35, § 456.