

Spring 2007 Road Rules

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code that may inform readers on the requirements of these sections and the penalties for violating these sections.

Section 3327 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code addresses drivers' responsibilities when approaching emergency response areas. An emergency response area is defined as "the area in which emergency service responders render emergency assistance to individuals on or near a roadway or a police officer is conducting a traffic stop or systematic check of vehicles as long as the emergency vehicle is making use of visual signals." Emergency service responders may include police officers, firefighters, ambulance, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel, towing and recovery personnel, highway maintenance and construction personnel, hazardous material response team members, coroners, and medical examiners.

Drivers must follow directions of emergency service responders. In instances when emergency service responders are not directing traffic, drivers must pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response area whenever possible. If passing in a nonadjacent lane is not possible, is illegal, or is not safe for given road and traffic conditions, the driver may pass the response area in an adjacent lane at a careful and prudent **reduced speed**.

Any person violating Section 3327 commits a summary offense, and may receive a fine up to \$250 and have his/her operating privilege suspended for 90 days.

Emergency responders may report violations to law enforcement officers.

As in work zones, many fines may be doubled in an emergency response area.