



# Syllabus

Emergency Services Driving Standard

## Acknowledgments

The RSA would like to acknowledge the contribution that the members of the Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Panel have made towards the development of this publication.

The RSA and ESDS panel would also like to acknowledge and thank The Police Foundation, Park Place, 12 Lawn Lane, London SW8 1UD for the valuable information referenced from their publication 'Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook', 2007 Edition ISBN 978011702168 and 2013 Edition ISBN 9780117081871 published by The Stationery Office (TSO) © Police Foundation copyright 2013.



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority



An Stiúrthóireacht Náisiúnta um Dóiteáin agus Bainistíocht Éigeandála  
National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Glossary of terms</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction to the training syllabus</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Purpose	4
2.2	Development of the ESDS Syllabus	4
2.2.1	Structuring training	5
2.3	Assessment	5
2.4	Self-analysis	6
2.4.1	Self-assessment	6
2.4.2	Self-reflection	6
2.4.3	Role of ESDS Trainers in self-analysis	6
2.5	ESDS Syllabus structure	6
<b>Emergency Services Driving: Level 1</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Introduction</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Module 1: Before driving emergency service vehicles</b>		<b>9</b>
	Unit 1.1: Legislation relevant to driving emergency service vehicles	10
	Unit 1.2 Administrative aspects of driving	11
	Unit 1.3 Preparing for a journey	11
	Unit 1.4 Vehicle safety and technical checks	12
<b>Module 2: Driving emergency service vehicles</b>		<b>13</b>
	Unit 2.1 Pre-start routine	13
	Unit 2.2 Primary controls	14
	Unit 2.3 Secondary controls	14
	Unit 2.4 In-vehicle technology and systems	15
	Unit 2.5 Observations and mirrors	15
	Unit 2.6 Communications, signs and signals	15
	Unit 2.7 Correct positioning on the road	16
<b>Module 3: The fundamentals of road sharing</b>		<b>17</b>
	Unit 3.1 Sharing the road	18
	Unit 3.2 Speed	18
	Unit 3.3 Anticipation and reaction	19
	Unit 3.4 Changing direction	19
	Unit 3.5 Night driving	20
	Unit 3.6 Driving in adverse weather conditions	20
	Unit 3.7 Eco-efficient driving	20
	Unit 3.8 Driving calmly	21

<b>Emergency Services Driving: Level 2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Module 4: Recognise, manage and avoid risks</b>	<b>23</b>
Unit 4.1 Cognitive skills for better driving	24
Unit 4.2 Intelligent use of speed	24
Unit 4.3 Advanced observation and anticipation techniques	25
Unit 4.4 Dynamic risk assessment	25
<b>Module 5: Vehicle control</b>	<b>26</b>
Unit 5.1 System of vehicle control	26
Unit 5.2 Skill of vehicle control	27
Unit 5.3 Controlling vehicle stability	27
Unit 5.4 Use and interpretation of driving signals	27
<b>Module 6: Control in traffic situations</b>	<b>28</b>
Unit 6.1 Advantageous positioning	28
Unit 6.2 Principles of cornering	29
Unit 6.3 Overtaking: Planning and techniques	29
Unit 6.4 Multi-lane roadways	29

<b>Emergency Services Driving: Level 3</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Module 7: Managing emergency response</b>	<b>31</b>
Unit 7.1 Cognitive skills for response driving	32
Unit 7.2 Evaluate response need	32
Unit 7.3 Dynamic risk assessment	33
Unit 7.4 Emergency route planning	33
<b>Module 8: Driving standards and vehicle assessment</b>	<b>33</b>
Unit 8.1 Maintains driving standards	34
Unit 8.2: Vehicle assessment for response	34
<b>Module 9: Emergency response driving</b>	<b>34</b>
Unit 9.1 Use of legal exemptions	35
Unit 9.2 Progress and restraint	35
Unit 9.3 Anticipation	35
Unit 9.4 Emergency response driving tactics	35

# 1 Glossary of terms

**Attitudes:** Attitudes are a person's feelings and emotions towards another person or object. They can be formed as a result of experience. Attitudes can lead to a readiness to respond in a predetermined manner.

---

**Behaviours:** The way in which a person acts in a given situation. Behaviours can demonstrate whether someone has an appropriate attitude to emergency service driving.

---

**Competence:** The ability to perform consistently to the required standard in a specified range of conditions.

---

**Emergency Response:** Driving when using any of the exemptions afforded by the relevant legislation, and / or the use of emergency warning equipment to facilitate progress.

---

**ESDS Trainers:** For the purposes of this document, the term ESDS Trainer refers to an individual who is certified to deliver ESDS training

---

**Formative assessment:** This is a reflective process used to promote learner attainment. Formative assessments will normally be a mixture of observations and question and answer techniques. The assessments do not generate a 'pass' or 'fail' decision but provide valuable information to the learner.

---

**Knowledge:** Awareness or possession of the facts, concepts, truths and principles of competent driving.

---

**Self-analysis:** The process of studying and understanding your own behaviours and quality of performance. It incorporates self-assessment and self-reflection.

---

**Self-assessment:** The process by which a person gathers information about their own performance and evaluates the quality of their performance, and determines what improvements they need to make.

---

**Self-reflection** The process by which a person reflects on and critically considers their previous actions, and their reasons for behaving as they did or for the decisions they have taken.

---

**Skills** The abilities required to perform competently, usually gained through training, experience and practice.

---

**Summative assessment:** An assessment undertaken at the end of a period of learning in order to generate a 'pass' or 'fail' decision.

---

**Understanding:** The ability to use knowledge as appropriate.

---

## 2 Introduction to the training syllabus

### 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Emergency Service Driving Standard (ESDS) Syllabus is to describe how ESDS Trainers should deliver effective and appropriate training. It is based on the Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual and the ESDS Competence Framework, which covers the skills, knowledge and behaviours that all competent emergency service drivers should be able to demonstrate and describes how this will be assessed at each stage of delivery.

The ESDS Syllabus can be used to develop emergency service drivers who can consistently drive at the required standard. It helps ESDS Trainers to structure training programmes and practice in a consistent manner. The delivery of the ESDS Syllabus may vary according to teaching styles and training methods. The contents of the ESDS Syllabus must be covered in conjunction with the ESDS Guidance Manual.

The Syllabus has been designed to cover the training of ESDS in vehicle categories B, BE, C1, C, CE, C1E, D1, D, DE, D1E, W in all emergency service groups.

### 2.2 Development of the ESDS Syllabus

The development of a training Syllabus for emergency service drivers is part of a number of measures to improve the standard of driving. The ESDS Syllabus was developed by the ESDS Panel. The content of the ESDS Syllabus is underpinned by the ESDS Competence Framework and Guidance Manual, which describes what an emergency service driver should be able to do, and what they should know and understand to be a safe and responsible emergency service driver.

#### The ESDS Syllabus

The ESDS Syllabus is divided into the 3 ESDS levels comprising a total of nine training modules. As shown in figure 1:

Figure 1: ESDS levels 1 -3

ESDS Level 1	ESDS Level 2	ESDS Level 3
<b>Module 1:</b> Before driving emergency service vehicles <b>Module 2:</b> Driving emergency service vehicles <b>Module 3:</b> The fundamentals of road sharing	<b>Module 4:</b> Recognise, manage and avoid risk <b>Module 5:</b> Vehicle Control <b>Module 6:</b> Control on traffic situations	<b>Module 7:</b> Managing emergency response <b>Module 8:</b> Driving standards and vehicle assessment <b>Module 9:</b> Emergency response driving
<b>Practical Assessment and Theory Test (Level and Vehicle specific)</b>		
ESDS Level 1 Certificate	ESDS Level 2 Certificate	ESDS Level 3 Certificate

Each module is supported by several Units that cover the knowledge and skills that must be assessed and evaluated during training. It includes an overview of the content of each training module and specific learning objectives.

The ESDS Syllabus will help ESDS Trainers prepare individual lesson plans around each Unit and ensure that the lessons cover the key skills and behaviours.

### **2.2.1 Structuring training**

In practice, skills are not practised one at a time. Efficient learning involves the sensible grouping of skills in practice sessions. ESDS Trainers need to plan modules and practice sessions carefully. This means taking account of road types, traffic conditions and, most importantly, the emergency service drivers knowledge and skill level, while at the same time trying to make sure that the routes and experiences chosen give the trainee plenty of opportunities to practise the skills currently being learned.

A syllabus is often accompanied by a training remit. A training remit provides an overall statement of the goals and approach to training. In this case it is expected that the training remit will be developed by the ESDS Trainers. It should be tailored by the ESDS Trainer to suit the individual trainee using a training plan.

A training plan may be developed based on the needs of the individual trainee with regard to the category of vehicle. Training plans should be flexible so that they can be amended easily according to how the trainee progresses. Individual lessons should be structured in line with the training plan. This training plan should be used to ensure that opportunities are created for the trainee to gain relevant experience in an effective way. To achieve the objectives of the modules, the ESDS Trainer must organise the teaching and coaching to ensure that the trainee is confronted during practice with relevant and challenging situations that can create opportunities for discussion, assessment and reflection. Lessons need to be structured using the training plans. Each lesson should be based on specific learning objectives suited to the trainee's progress.

## **2.3 Assessment**

Assessment is an important part of the learning process. It is important to consider how assessment should be carried out at different stages of training.

Formative assessments are used throughout the Syllabus to provide trainees with feedback on their performance, progress and areas for improvement. ESDS Trainers have a responsibility to assess trainees throughout training delivery in order to ensure that they are progressing. Formative assessments should assess progress the trainee is making during each stage of training, and to judge readiness to move onto the next stage of development, including readiness to sit the formal assessments.

Formative assessments by ESDS Trainers and trainees themselves will normally be a mixture of observation and questioning. For ESDS Trainers, this will mean direct observation of the trainee's performance supported by questioning and discussion of their understanding of how, when, why and where decisions are made and the consequences of the subsequent actions that are taken. For trainees, self-assessment will take the form of observations of their own driving performance, while self-reflection will take the form of questioning themselves about their skill level, behaviour and attitude to driving. For the trainee, having a realistic idea of their own strengths and weaknesses is an integral part of the learning process.

Summative assessment will be conducted at the completion of each ESDS Level 1 - 3 which will be administered and overseen by the RSA ESDS Unit.

## **2.4 Self-analysis**

Self-assessment and self-reflection have an important part to play in becoming a fully safe and responsible ESDS. The ESDS Syllabus encourages trainees to assess their own competence and development throughout the training process.

Self-assessment and self-reflection have valuable parts to play in the learning process. The more aware trainees are of their own strengths and weaknesses, the safer and more responsible they are likely to be.

Self-assessment and self-reflection are related but different skills. They are part of a process that leads to emergency service drivers having a better understanding of their own driving capabilities and behaviours. The ESDS Syllabus encourages trainees to decide how well driving tasks are being performed and think about why they acted in a particular way and how they can improve.

### 2.4.1 Self-assessment

Self-assessment requires trainees to observe their own driving performance and behaviour and to judge how well they are doing compared to the standard. They need to ask themselves what they did well or what they did not do so well. The judgements are made against the contents of the ESDS Syllabus.

### 2.4.2 Self-reflection

Self-reflection requires trainees to consider why they are interpreting information or driving in the ways they are. If they are making errors they need to identify the reasons why. Does it suggest they lack knowledge and understanding, have a lack of skill, hold inappropriate attitudes or a combination of these? They should ask themselves questions, such as:

- Why do I keep making that error?
- What effect does my error have on other road users?

### 2.4.3 Role of Emergency Service Driver Trainers in self analysis

The ESDS Syllabus encourages trainees to assess their own competencies and development throughout the training process. Driver training and coaching should be organised and delivered in ways that encourage trainees to reflect on their own driving performance, to see situations from the perspectives of others and to cooperate with other road users.

ESDS Trainers should try to encourage trainees to self-assess and self-reflect by asking questions. In most situations, the questions will form part of a sequence, starting with one or more self-assessment question(s) and continuing with one or more self-reflection question(s).

## 2.5 ESDS Syllabus structure

A table of the top level contents of each module in the training courses is provided below:

Module	Units
Level 1	
1. Before driving emergency service vehicles	1.1 Legislation relevant to driving emergency service vehicles 1.2 Administrative aspects of driving 1.3 Preparing for a journey 1.4 Vehicle safety and technical checks
2. Driving emergency service vehicles	2.1 Pre-start routine 2.2 Primary controls 2.3 Secondary controls 2.4 In-vehicle technology and systems 2.5 Observations and mirrors 2.6 Communications, signals and signs 2.7 Correct positioning on the road



Module	Units
3. The fundamentals of road sharing	3.1 Sharing the road 3.2 Speed 3.3 Anticipation and reaction 3.4 Changing direction 3.5 Night driving 3.6 Driving in adverse weather conditions 3.7 Driving in an eco-efficient manner 3.8 Driving calmly
<b>Level 2</b>	
4. Recognise, manage and avoid risks	4.1 Mental skills for better driving 4.2 Intelligent use of speed 4.3 Advanced observation and anticipation techniques 4.4 Dynamic risk assessment
5. Vehicle control	5.1 System of vehicle control 5.2 Skill of vehicle control 5.3 Controlling vehicle stability 5.4 Use and interpretation of driving signals
6. Control in traffic situations	6.1 Advantageous positioning 6.2 Principles of cornering 6.3 Overtaking: planning and techniques 6.4 Multi-lane roadways
<b>Level 3</b>	
7. Managing emergency response	7.1 Mental skills for response driving 7.2 Evaluate response need 7.3 Dynamic risk assessment 7.4 Emergency route planning
8. Driving standards and vehicle assessment	8.1 Maintains driving standards 8.2 Vehicle assessment for response
9. Emergency response driving	9.1 Use of legal exemptions 9.2 Progress and restraint 9.3 Anticipation 9.4 Emergency response driving tactics

# EMERGENCY SERVICES DRIVING

# LEVEL 1



# Introduction

---

Level 1 is designed to cover the skills and knowledge needed to drive an emergency service vehicle on the road in a safe and responsible way. It does not include driving with exemptions under road traffic legislation or responding to an emergency.

Training at level 1 is presented in the following 3 modules:

- 1: Before driving emergency service vehicles
- 2: Driving emergency service vehicles
- 3: The fundamentals of road sharing

## Module 1: Before driving emergency service vehicles

---

### Information you will need

- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual
- The Rules of the Road
- Vehicle Handbook
- Relevant Road Traffic Legislation

### Equipment

A suitable facility for delivering learning points, a vehicle, lesson plans, reference documents.

### Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration will be needed for some objectives.

### Overview

Module 1 is designed to introduce the trainee to driving an emergency service vehicle. It should cover the administrative and technical matters relating to driving emergency service vehicles. It is designed to cover the knowledge requirements of driving an emergency service vehicle.

On completing Module 1, the trainee should understand the regulatory and legal demands made of an emergency service driver and their responsibility for the vehicle. It provides an introduction to the environmental impact of driving an emergency service vehicle and how to prepare for a journey. The knowledge and understanding that trainees acquire in this module will help underpin the development of more complex driving skills in the subsequent modules.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Understand the structure of ESDS training and assessment
- Understand the administrative tasks related to emergency service vehicles
- Know how to keep up-to-date with legislation and changes to emergency service driving
- Be able to carry out the basic technical checks on an emergency service vehicle
- Know how to deal with a vehicle breakdown

- Understand the possible harmful effects vehicle emissions can have on the environment
- Know how to prepare for a journey
- Know how to plan an appropriate route

## Unit 1.1: Legislation relevant to driving emergency service vehicles

### Objective

This section should cover the rules and regulations associated with obtaining and maintaining an ESDS certificate and legislation in respect of the use of emergency lights and sirens and exemptions under The Road Traffic Acts. It should also cover how to keep up-to-date with changes to legislation. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand the process of gaining and maintaining an ESDS certificate and what is expected in terms of training and assessment at each stage.

### Legislation

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the exemptions under the Road Traffic Acts
- Understand the legal medical requirements for licence holders
- Understand the legal requirements regarding insurance
- Understand the regulations and rules relating to the fitting and use of emergency lights and sirens

### Rules

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the rules relating to ESDS levels
- Understand how to obtain an ESDS certification
- Understand how to progress through the ESDS levels
- Understand how the ESDS Syllabus underpins the learning process
- Know the contents of the ESDS Syllabus

### Keeping up-to-date

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to keep up-to-date with changes to ESDS requirements
- Know how to keep up-to-date with changes to legislation
- Understand where to get information about changes to legislation
- Understand the potential consequences and legal implications of not keeping up-to-date with legislation
- Know how to keep up-to-date with changes to road signs and road markings

## Unit 1.2 Administrative aspects of driving

### Objective

This section should cover the legal requirements related to the vehicle. It should include rules, responsibilities and obligations relating to road tax and the roadworthiness certificate. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand that it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle they are driving is appropriately taxed and roadworthy.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand that it is the driver's responsibility to make sure that the vehicle is taxed
- Understand the potential consequences of driving a vehicle in an un-roadworthy condition
- Understand the rules and regulations relating to Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)
- Understand exemptions from CPC

## Unit 1.3 Preparing for a journey

### Objective

This section covers the preparations an emergency service driver should make before a journey. It includes route planning, driving impairments, passengers, patients and the loading of vehicles. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand the main symptoms of being unfit to drive. They should also be able to plan a journey with the passenger or patient's comfort and safety in mind.

### Fitness to drive

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the importance of being fit to drive
- Understand the causes and symptoms of being unfit to drive
- Understand the organisations requirements for fitness to drive
- Understand the dangers of being fatigued
- Understand the effect of alcohol and drug use
- Understand the risk associated with carrying passengers and / or patients

### Route planning

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to plan a route, including where to get relevant information for route planning
- Understand how weather, time of day, road works, height and weight restrictions, events and diversions might affect the journey
- Know how to check that there is sufficient fuel for the journey

### Loading and Towing

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to safely load an emergency service vehicle
- Understand the organisational restrictions on towing
- Understand the legal restrictions on towing, where applicable
- Understand the regulations on weight restrictions, where applicable

## Unit 1.4 Vehicle safety and technical checks

### Objective

This section should provide an overview of vehicle maintenance and technical checks. It covers the importance of ensuring that a vehicle is roadworthy. It also covers routine technical checks and how to deal with minor vehicle repairs. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand the safety implications of driving a poorly maintained vehicle and what to do in case of vehicle breakdown.

### Vehicle checks

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to perform the necessary daily, weekly and periodic safety checks inside and outside the vehicle
- Know where to find further information on safety checks
- Know how to obtain a copy of the vehicle's manual
- Know how to use the vehicle's user manual
- Know how to organise repairs and replace faulty parts
- Know how to log problems with the vehicle
- Know how the ancillary equipment should be secured on the vehicle
- Be able to check that all ancillary equipment is safe and secure
- Be able to check all engine fluid levels
- Understand the potential consequences of incorrect or inadequate fluid levels
- Understand where to find and how to operate the ignition control
- Understand the importance of keeping lights and reflectors clean and in good working order
- Know how to check the correct functioning of the lights
- Understand the potential consequences of faulty or non-functioning lights
- Understand the importance of replacing light bulbs as necessary
- Know how to check the operation of emergency lights and sirens

### Tyres

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the legal requirements in relation to tyres
- Be able to check that tyres meet legal requirements
- Be able to check the air pressure in the tyres
- Understand the importance of correct air pressure and tread depth
- Understand the importance of regularly checking rims and wheel nuts

### Breakdown

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to deal with a vehicle breakdown
- Understand the regulations and rules relating to the breakdown of the vehicle
- Understand the correct procedures to follow to ensure safety of self and others in the event of a vehicle breakdown
- Understand what should be stored in the vehicle in case of breakdown

- Understand how and when to use hazard warning lights and warning triangles
- Understand the procedures for using breakdown equipment
- Be able to use breakdown equipment

## Module 2: Driving emergency service vehicles

---

### Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual

### Equipment

A suitable facility for delivering learning points, a vehicle, lesson plans.

### Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and trainee practice will be needed for some objectives.

### Overview

Module 2 covers the use and coordination of the basic controls of the emergency service vehicle without distraction. It should cover the use of primary and secondary controls, positioning, observations and communication.

On completion of this module, the trainee should be able to operate and control the emergency service vehicle safely without being distracted by the vehicle's controls and systems, observations and communication.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Know how to use the primary and secondary controls without distraction
- Know how to use on-board technology and systems without distraction
- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle on the road
- Be able to respond appropriately to traffic signs, signals and other types of communication
- Be able to make correct use of the mirrors and use of timely observations

### Unit 2.1 Pre-start routine

#### Objectives

This section should cover the importance of adopting a comfortable driving position and ensuring that the vehicle is secure and safe. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to enter and leave the vehicle safely and prepare the emergency service vehicle for driving.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to check that the handbrake or parking brake is applied correctly before starting the vehicle
- Be able to operate the vehicle doors, including rear and side doors
- Be able to check that all the doors are secured correctly

- Be able to make adjustments to the seat to ensure a comfortable and safe position when driving
- Be able to adjust the head restraint so that it is positioned correctly
- Be able to adjust the mirrors, both interior and exterior
- Understand the function of the safety belts
- Understand the necessity for all passengers or patients to wear a safety belt
- Be able to fasten the safety belt and make any necessary adjustments to it
- Know how to check that the vehicle is not in gear before starting the engine
- Be able to ensure that the mirrors are clean and serviceable

## Unit 2.2 Primary controls

### Objective

This section should cover the use of the primary controls in a timely fashion. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to use the primary controls smoothly and safely without distraction.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to operate the foot brake with correct amount of pressure
- Be able to operate the handbrake and parking brake
- Understand the characteristics of an emergency service vehicle that affect acceleration
- Be able to operate the accelerator appropriately to smoothly control the vehicle
- Be able to operate the clutch appropriately to ensure smoothness when moving off, stopping and changing gear
- Be able to operate the gears appropriately with proper selection for vehicle and engine speed and with consideration for environmental impact
- Be able to steer precisely and smoothly both on the straight and when changing direction
- Understand the characteristics of the transmission in an emergency service vehicle
- Know how to position the vehicle correctly at incidents

## Unit 2.3 Secondary controls

### Objective

This section should introduce the operation and positioning of the secondary controls. It covers how to use the secondary controls in a timely fashion without distracting the driver from the road or the use of the primary controls. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to use the secondary controls smoothly, safely without distraction and display an in-depth knowledge of the location and operating features of secondary controls.

### Controls

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know the location and operating features of secondary controls
- Understand the importance of using the windscreen wipers and washer controls
- Understand the importance of using the lights correctly
- Understand the potential consequences of not using the lights correctly
- Understand the location of the front and rear demister controls
- Be able to use the demisters at the appropriate time



- Understand the potential consequences of not using the climate control
- Know how to use windows, doors and door locks and the potential consequences of not using them appropriately

## Unit 2.4 In-vehicle technology and systems

### Objective

This section should introduce the operation of on-board technology and systems. It should cover how to use on-board technology and systems in a timely fashion without distracting the driver from the road or the use of the primary controls. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to use any on-board technology and systems which the trainee might encounter.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the function of on-board controls and switches
- Understand the purpose and use of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), satellite navigation and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems
- Be able to use vehicle control technology and systems correctly
- Understand the accepted routines and procedures for using on-board communication systems
- Know how to use GPS systems, when required
- Know how to deal with the distraction of on-board control technology and systems

## Unit 2.5 Observations and mirrors

### Objective

This section should focus on the correct use of the mirrors and use of timely observations. It covers how to compensate for vehicle blind spots and use effective scanning techniques when driving an emergency service vehicle. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to make timely and appropriate observations with consideration for other road users.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to use the mirrors in a safe and effective way
- Be able to use the MSMM (Mirrors, Signal, Mirrors, Manoeuvre) routine
- Understand the potential dangers to the sides and rear of the vehicle while maintaining effective forward observation
- Be able to make safety glances and observations in an effective and safe way without prompting
- Be able to use effective scanning techniques
- Know how to identify and compensate for blind spots
- Understand the potential obstructions caused by window pillars and mirrors

## Unit 2.6 Communications, signs and signals

### Objective

This section covers responding appropriately to traffic signs, signals and other types of communication while driving an emergency service vehicle. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to respond to and give appropriate signals to other road users.

## Road signs and traffic signs

### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to identify road signs in good time
- Understand the meaning of road signs
- Understand the rules that apply to road signs

## Communications and signals

### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to respond appropriately to signals given by Gardaí, Customs Officers, School Wardens and persons in charge of animals
- Understand the importance of communicating with other road users
- Be able to give hand signals to other road users
- Understand the benefit of hand signals to other road users
- Be able to interpret hand signals given by Gardaí and other road users
- Understand the circumstances in which it is appropriate and not appropriate to use the horn
- Understand the potential consequences of not using the horn
- Understand when it is illegal to use the horn
- Understand the types of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings
- Be able to recognise when to use signals
- Be able to use signals without causing confusion
- Know how to interpret signals from other road users

## Other emergency service vehicles

### Specific learning goals:

- Understand how to respond to other emergency service vehicles on the road
- Know how to cooperate with other road users while interpreting emergency service vehicles lights and sirens
- Understand the potential consequences of other road users' reactions to emergency service vehicles

## Unit 2.7 Correct positioning on the road

### Objective

This section should cover the positioning of the vehicle on different road types. It includes how to maintain a safe braking distance with consideration for load and towing capacity. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to position the vehicle safely on a range of different road types and during various manoeuvres.

### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle on a straight road
- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle in traffic lanes
- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle on bends and corners
- Know how to position the emergency service vehicle in the correct lane
- Be able to position emergency service vehicle correctly when overtaking

- Understand the potential consequences of incorrect positioning
- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle correctly when negotiating junctions
- Understand the potential dangers of incorrect positioning at junctions
- Be able to enter, cross and join roads safely and effectively
- Be able to position the vehicle correctly when parking and stopping
- Be able to position the emergency service vehicle when reversing or performing a turn-about
- Understand the potential consequences of incorrect positioning when reversing or performing a turn-about
- Understand the potential consequences of incorrect positioning when parking and stopping

## Module 3: The fundamentals of road sharing

---

### Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual

### Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans.

### Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and trainee practice will be needed for some objectives.

### Overview

This module is designed to develop driving skills on the road. It covers driving an emergency service vehicle on the road with other road users with particular attention to vulnerable road users. On completion of this module, the trainee should be able to drive emergency service vehicles on the road and interact with other road users, including other emergency service vehicles, in a safe and responsible way.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Know how to anticipate and react to hazards
- Know how to manage speed
- Be able to change direction with regard for other road users
- Be able to make progress through traffic
- Be able to drive in adverse weather conditions
- Be able to drive at night

## Unit 3.1 Sharing the road

### Objective

This section should focus on how to drive safely through traffic. It includes recognising, interpreting and managing risks associated with driving through traffic. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to drive safely through traffic and cooperate with other road users.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to pass other road users with due care and attention
- Understand when it is safe to overtake
- Know how to respond appropriately to being overtaken
- Know when and how to accommodate other road users wishing to overtake (where appropriate)
- Understand that you must remain alert to other emergency service vehicles
- Understand that noise in a vehicle should be kept to a minimum so that sirens can be heard
- Know how to safely clear the way for an emergency service vehicle

## Unit 3.2 Speed

### Objective

This section should focus on driving at a speed that is appropriate for the conditions. It covers regulating speed in a range of prevailing weather and road conditions. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to manage their speed when driving an emergency service vehicle. They should be aware of how speed affects passengers, vehicle load and its impact on other road users.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the necessity for speed limits
- Be able to adjust the speed of the emergency service vehicle to comply with speed limits
- Know how vehicle dynamics affect speed, stopping and braking distances
- Know how to stop the vehicle at different speeds with respect for the patients and / or passengers condition, comfort and safety
- Understand the potential consequences of driving too fast or too slow for the prevailing road and traffic conditions
- Be able to stop the vehicle at different speeds
- Be able to slow down at different speeds
- Understand how passengers and loads affect vehicle dynamics and stopping distances
- Understand how speed will affect passenger or patient comfort and safety
- Understand the effect of road camber on large vehicles
- Be able to drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions
- Understand the need to adjust speed to suit the prevailing conditions
- Understand how speed might affect passenger and/or patient safety and comfort

## Unit 3.3 Anticipation and reaction

### Objective

This section should cover how to identify and interpret imminent and potential hazards, and react appropriately. It should focus on how hazards should be dealt with in a safe way and how to avoid distraction. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to anticipate hazards on the road and deal with them in good time.

### Anticipation

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to scan the environment for imminent and potential hazards
- Be able to anticipate potential dangers relating to imminent and potential hazards
- Know how to minimise hazards when driving
- Be able to use defensive driving techniques
- Be able to react appropriately to imminent or potential hazards
- Be able to respond appropriately to any potential or actual hazards as they arise
- Be able to maintain control when reacting to hazards
- Be able to prioritise hazards

## Unit 3.4 Changing direction

### Objective

This section should cover changing direction in complex situations. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to change direction in a safe and timely manner in a range of traffic and road conditions.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to change direction with due regard for other road users
- Understand when it is appropriate and safe to yield to other road users
- Be able to progress without impeding other road users who have the right of way
- Be able to change direction with due regard for vulnerable road users
- Be able to safely negotiate roundabouts
- Understand the potential dangers at roundabouts
- Understand right of way at roundabouts
- Be able to make appropriate observations at roundabouts
- Be able to select the correct lane at roundabouts
- Be able to safely negotiate complex junctions
- Understand the potential dangers at complex junctions
- Understand right of way at complex junctions
- Be able to make appropriate observations at complex junctions

## Unit 3.5 Night driving

### Objective

This section should cover driving at night. It should explain how driving should be adapted during hours of darkness. On completion of this section, the trainee should know how to deal with poor visibility and be able to manage the risks associated with driving at night.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to maintain safe control of the vehicle when driving at night
- Know how to recognise visual restrictions caused by night conditions
- Understand the regulations governing the use of auxiliary lamps
- Understand the potential dangers related to poor night vision
- Know how to use the vehicle lighting at the appropriate time for the conditions
- Understand the different types of lighting and when they should be used
- Be able to respond appropriately to lighting from other vehicles
- Be able to adjust driving to poor lighting conditions

## Unit 3.6 Driving in adverse weather conditions

### Objective

This section should cover driving in adverse weather conditions. It should explain how driving should change when faced with adverse conditions. It also covers making judgements on the suitability of the prevailing conditions for driving. On completion of this section, the trainee should know how to deal with poor visibility and be able to manage the risks associated with changing weather conditions.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how weather conditions can affect driving performance
- Know how wind can affect the driving performance and stability of high sided vehicles
- Know how weather conditions can affect stopping distances
- Know how weather conditions can affect visibility
- Understand the effect of adverse weather on loads
- Know when to postpone a journey or use an appropriate alternative route because of adverse weather
- Understand the importance of spray suppression equipment on a vehicle
- Understand the importance of assessing weather and road conditions
- Be able to assess that weather conditions are suitable for driving
- Be able to assess the risks and implications of driving in adverse conditions
- Understand skid causation factors and compensation factors

## Unit 3.7 Eco-efficient driving

### Objective

This section should cover eco-efficient driving. It covers the environmental impact of driving and how it might be mitigated by the way people drive their vehicles and use the vehicle controls. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to determine the most eco-efficient ways of driving an emergency service vehicle.

### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the possible harmful effects vehicle emissions can have on the environment
- Understand the importance of vehicle maintenance for the environment
- Know how vehicle size, engine size, vehicle design and fuel type can affect fuel consumption and emissions into the environment
- Understand the different types of fuel additives to help reduce emissions
- Understand that improper use of primary controls can affect fuel consumption and emissions
- Understand that you should not put eco-driving techniques above safe driving principles where they conflict
- Understand that excess weight should be removed from the vehicle when it is not needed
- Understand the benefits of maintaining a constant safe speed, avoiding unnecessary harsh braking or acceleration
- Be able to constantly assess and evaluate traffic flow

## Unit 3.8 Driving calmly

### Objective

This section should cover driving calmly. It should cover dealing with other road users, driver distractions, peer pressure and how to deal with organisational targets and the pressure they place on driving. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to mitigate the effects of distraction and peer pressure.

### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to respond calmly to other road users
- Be able to manage internal and external distractions
- Be able to maintain composure in potentially stressful events and conditions
- Know how to deal with peer pressure
- Know how to deal with pressures from operational stresses effectively
- Know how to deal with distractions from passengers or patients
- Understand the potential consequences of not dealing with peer pressure
- Understand how to deal with pressure from organisational targets
- Understand how to deal with time pressures

EMERGENCY SERVICES DRIVING

# LEVEL 2





## Emergency Services Driving: Level 2

---

Training at level 2 builds on the knowledge, skills and behaviours covered in level 1. It is based on the methods and driving principles described in Roadcraft<sup>1</sup>. It should provide trainees with experience in using the methods and principles of driving described in Roadcraft in a range of road, traffic and adverse conditions. It should cover progressive driving using the system of vehicle control described in Roadcraft. On completion of training at level 2, the trainee should be able to drive and progress through traffic applying the principles described in Roadcraft.

Training at level 2 is presented in the following 3 modules:

- 1: Recognise, manage and avoid risks
- 2: Control of the vehicle
- 3: Control in traffic

## Module 4: Recognise, manage and avoid risks

---

### Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual

### Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans and a suitable facility for delivering learning points.

### Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and trainee practice will be needed for most objectives.

### Overview

This module covers two main topics:

1. The importance of the trainee's physical and psychological state when driving an emergency service vehicle. It should cover how to self-assess performance and whether the driver is in a fit physical and psychological state to drive.
2. How to use speed and observe and anticipate risks using the systems described in Roadcraft.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Know how to assess whether they are physically and psychologically fit to drive
- Understand what 'red mist' is and how to avoid it
- Know how to respond appropriately to the effects of physiological factors
- Know how to accurately assess own performance
- Know how to drive at speeds appropriate for the circumstances and conditions

---

1 Coyne, P., Mares, P., and MacDonald, B. (2007). Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook. The Stationary Office: London

- Know how to use appropriate observation and anticipation techniques
- Know how to anticipate changes in road users' behaviour
- Know how to prioritise multiple hazards

## Unit 4.1 Cognitive skills for better driving

### Objective

This section is concerned with providing emergency service drivers with the cognitive skills which allow them to monitor and manage their reactions while driving, including; physical and psychological fitness to drive, attitudes and behaviours and self-assessment. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to monitor and control their cognitive and emotional state so that they are safe to drive an emergency service vehicle. Trainees should also be able to adequately assess their own driving performance.

### Fitness to drive

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to maintain a calm, considerate and professional manner
- Be able to control the tendency to personalise events
- Be able to respond appropriately to the actions of other road users
- Know how to recognise that you are entering the 'red mist' state and the cognitive and emotional changes that may impair judgement, performance or decision making
- Know how to respond appropriately to the effects of physiological factors
- Understand how to respond appropriately to the effects of psychological factors

### Self-assessment / self-reflection

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the importance of self-assessment
- Be able to accurately assess own performance
- Know how self-assessment can help improve performance
- Know how to apply learning from self-assessment to develop competence

## Unit 4.2 Intelligent use of speed

This section should cover how to drive an emergency service vehicle at the most appropriate speed for the circumstances. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to process information and make decisions at higher speeds.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to judge the speed and distance related to own vehicle and other vehicles
- Be able to drive at speeds appropriate for the circumstances and conditions
- Be able to make progress appropriate to the circumstances and within the driver's competence
- Be able to exercise restraint in driving speed while progressing through traffic
- Know that safety must not be compromised to save time
- Understand that inappropriate speed may compromise safety

## Unit 4.3 Advanced observation and anticipation techniques

### Objective

This section should focus on how to make effective observations while driving an emergency service vehicle. It should cover the Roadcraft system of observation and anticipation. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand how advanced observations and anticipation can assist in formulating flexible driving plans.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to react appropriately to observed changes in circumstances
- Be able to use observations and senses for early recognition of hazards
- Be able to use observation links to anticipate changes in road and traffic conditions
- Know how to anticipate changes in drivers behaviour
- Know how to anticipate behaviour of other road users
- Know how to prioritise multiple hazards
- Be able to formulate flexible driving plans
- Be able to use observations to make a driving plan
- Be able to use active decision making

## Unit 4.4 Dynamic risk assessment

### Objective

This section should focus on how to continually assess risks within the driving environment. It should cover how to accurately assess risk whilst driving an emergency service vehicle. On completion of this section, the trainee should know how to continually assess the risk in rapidly changing circumstances in order to react in a safe and appropriate way. The trainee should be able to effectively communicate a risk assessment.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to provide a concise risk assessment of the driving environment when requested (Including; road, weather, traffic, any other relevant hazards, own speed and risk level)
- Know how to assess risk whilst driving an emergency service vehicle
- Know how to utilise the system of vehicle control when responding to risk
- Know how to apply the system of vehicle control when responding to changing circumstances
- Understand the system of vehicle control

# Module 5: Vehicle control

---

## Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual

## Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans.

## Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and lead instruction will be needed for most objectives.

## Overview

This module covers the Roadcraft system of vehicle control. It covers how to use information, positioning, speed, gears and acceleration to negotiate hazards. On completion of this module, the trainee should be able to use the system of vehicle control to maintain vehicle stability, negotiate hazards and plan ahead.

## By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Be able to use the Roadcraft system of vehicle control
- Be able to systematically apply all phases of vehicle control
- Understand how the system of vehicle control can affect vehicle stability
- Know how to adjust the system of vehicle control to the conditions and situation
- Be able to give signals to and interpret signals from other road users indicating that they are aware of each others' presence

## Unit 5.1 System of vehicle control

### Objective

This section covers how to control the vehicle using the Roadcraft system of vehicle control. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand how to maintain control of the vehicle and maintain vehicle stability through proper use of the system of vehicle control for progressive driving.

### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to use the system of vehicle control
- Understand the stages of vehicle control: Information, position, speed, gear and acceleration
- Know how to use the system of vehicle control to take, use and give information
- Know how to use the system of vehicle control to position the vehicle so that you can progress safely
- Know how to use the system of vehicle control to adjust speed to suit the situation
- Know how to use the system of vehicle control to select the correct gear to maintain control
- Know how to use the system of vehicle control to apply the correct amount of acceleration to achieve progressive driving

## Unit 5.2 Skill of vehicle control

### Objective

This section covers the specific skills involved in controlling the vehicle using the Roadcraft system of vehicle control. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand how to maintain control of the vehicle through proper use of the vehicle controls.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to use the gears smoothly and accurately using Roadcraft techniques in selecting the correct gear
- Understand how acceleration can affect vehicle balance
- Be able to use the accelerator smoothly and accurately using Roadcraft techniques
- Know how to use acceleration sense to avoid unnecessary braking
- Know the Roadcraft techniques for braking
- Be able to use the brakes smoothly and accurately using Roadcraft techniques
- Be able to use steering techniques to suit the situation
- Know how to select correct steering techniques for control, efficiency and comfort
- Be able to adopt the most appropriate steering techniques when manoeuvring

## Unit 5.3 Controlling vehicle stability

### Objective

This section covers controlling the stability of the vehicle while driving and applying the system of vehicle control. It covers how to avoid skidding when driving an emergency service vehicle. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand how to maintain stability when applying the system of vehicle control.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the causes of skidding
- Understand how to minimise skidding
- Understand the limitations of ADAS systems
- Understand how to correct skidding
- Understand the effect on your driving in adverse weather conditions
- Understand how to adjust the system of vehicle control when conditions are poor

## Unit 5.4 Use and interpretation of driving signals

### Objective

This section should cover how to give and interpret driving signals when driving an emergency service vehicle. On completion of this section, the trainee should know what tactics to employ to make progress while giving signals to and interpreting signals from other road users.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to interpret signals and signs from other road users indicating that they are aware of your presence
- Understand range of signals other road users may use to demonstrate that they have seen the emergency service vehicle
- Know how courtesy signals help road safety and positive driving attitudes
- Be able to use signals and signs to communicate presence to other road users
- Know how to use signals and signs in an effective way

# Module 6: Control in traffic situations

---

## Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual

## Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans.

## Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and lead instruction will be needed for most objectives.

## Overview

This module covers the use of the Roadcraft system of vehicle control in a range of road, weather and traffic conditions. On completion of this module, the trainee should be able to use the Roadcraft system of vehicle control to position the vehicle and corner correctly. Trainees should also be able to drive on multi-lane roads using the principles of Roadcraft.

## By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Be able to adopt the best road position for the conditions and situation
- Be able to position the vehicle correctly for progression when following other vehicles
- Be able to apply restraint, when necessary
- Be able to adopt best position for overtaking
- Be able to use the system of vehicle control to negotiate corners correctly
- Know how to apply the system of vehicle control when joining and exiting a motorway
- Be able to make progress taking passenger and / or patient comfort into account

## Unit 6.1 Advantageous positioning

### Objective

This section should focus on how to position the emergency service vehicle when making progress in traffic. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to position the vehicle for visibility and safe progress through traffic.

### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to adopt a safe position in road and traffic conditions
- Be able to position the vehicle correctly for progression when following other vehicles
- Be able to position the vehicle to obtain the best view for the situation
- Be able to position the vehicle to gain the best view of the road ahead

## Unit 6.2 Principles of cornering

### Objective

This section should cover the additional knowledge, understanding and skills needed to apply the system of vehicle control to negotiate corners safely. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand cornering forces, limit point analysis and be able to apply both to the general principles of cornering.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to adopt the best road position on approach to a bend
- Be able to adopt best position taking into account other road users and prevailing hazards
- Be able to position the vehicle correctly to negotiate a left-hand bend
- Be able to position the vehicle correctly to negotiate a right-hand bend
- Be able to apply the system of vehicle control when cornering
- Understand the forces involved in cornering
- Know how to use limit point analysis

## Unit 6.3 Overtaking: Planning and techniques

### Objective

This section should focus on the planning and techniques used when overtaking in an emergency. It builds on knowledge and understanding of overtaking in modules 1 – 3. On completion of this section, the trainee should understand the stages of overtaking and be able to overtake in a safe manner.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the stages of overtaking when using the system of vehicle control
- Be able to overtake vehicles using the system of vehicle control
- Be able to identify, plan and complete overtaking in a safe manner
- Be able to adopt a following position before overtaking
- Be able to display restraint at all times

## Unit 6.4 Multi-lane roadways

### Objective

This section should focus on driving on multi-lane roads. It builds on knowledge and understanding of driving in modules 1 – 3. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to join, leave and drive safely on multi-lane roads.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the potential dangers associated with joining and leaving a motorway
- Know how to apply the system of vehicle control when joining and exiting a motorway
- Know how to select the correct lane on a motorway
- Be able to adopt the correct lane for the conditions
- Know how to change lanes on a motorway
- Know how to deal with specific hazards

EMERGENCY SERVICES DRIVING

# LEVEL 3





# Emergency Services Driving: Level 3

---

Training at level 3 focuses on emergency response driving. It covers the control of the vehicle and use of emergency warning equipment and route planning in an emergency situation. It also covers the need for awareness of the risks associated with emergency response driving and how to keep both the public and passengers safe. Drivers are deemed to be in 'Emergency Response' when they are using any of the exemptions afforded to them by the relevant legislation, and/or using emergency warning equipment to facilitate progress.

Training at level 3 is presented in the following 3 modules:

- 1: Managing emergency response
- 2: Driving standards and vehicle assessment
- 3: Emergency response driving

## Module 7: Managing emergency response

---

### Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual
- ESDS Tactical Response Guidelines
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook

### Equipment

A suitable facility for delivering learning points, a vehicle, lesson plans.

### Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. Practical demonstration and lead instruction will be needed for most objectives.

### Overview

This module is designed to introduce the knowledge and understanding needed to drive in an emergency response situation. Module 7 should be covered before a trainee starts training in emergency response driving. On completing this module, the trainee should understand the legal requirements of emergency response driving, the importance of being physically and psychologically prepared to drive in an emergency response situation, how to evaluate whether an emergency response is appropriate and how to choose the best route to take.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Understand the legal exemptions
- Understand criteria for making use of legal exemptions
- Understand how to make a self-assessment of physical and psychological readiness for an emergency response
- Know how to continuously re-evaluate whether the response should be maintained given developing information or changing conditions and hazards
- Be able to plan routes in an emergency response situation

## Unit 7.1 Cognitive skills for response driving

### Objective

This section is concerned with providing emergency service drivers with the cognitive skills which allow them to monitor and manage their reactions while driving in an emergency response situation, including; physical and psychological fitness to drive, attitudes and behaviours and self-assessment. It should include the effect physical and psychological state can have on the ability to drive safely in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to monitor and control their cognitive and emotional state so that they are safe to drive in an emergency response situation.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to maintain a calm, considerate and professional approach in an emergency response situation
- Understand that safety and driving standards should not be reduced to make progress in an emergency response situation
- Be able to control the tendency to personalise events when in an emergency response situation
- Know how to recognise that you are entering the 'red mist' state and the cognitive and emotional changes that may impair judgement, performance or decision making in an emergency response situation
- Know how to respond appropriately to the effects of physiological factors when in an emergency response situation
- Understand to respond appropriately to the effects of psychological factors when in an emergency response situation
- Understand that administrative demands and targets should not be put before safety when in an emergency response situation

### Self-assessment / self-reflection

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand the importance of self-assessment in an emergency response situation
- Be able to accurately assess own performance in an emergency response situation
- Know how to apply learning from self-assessment to develop competence

## Unit 7.2 Evaluate response need

### Objective

This section should cover how to assess the nature of the emergency call using the information provided and the prevailing conditions. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to respond in a way that is justified and proportionate. The trainee must also be aware of their accountability for decisions.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know the criteria for deciding whether an incident needs immediate and urgent response
- Know the criteria for deciding whether it is justifiable for you to respond to an emergency
- Be able to justify an emergency response taking into account the nature of the emergency and the prevailing conditions
- Know how to continuously re-evaluate whether the response should be maintained given developing information or changing conditions and hazards

## Unit 7.3 Dynamic risk assessment

### Objective

This section should focus on how to continually assess risks within the driving environment. It covers how to accurately assess risk whilst driving an emergency service vehicle in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to continually assess the risk in rapidly changing circumstance in order to react in a safe and appropriate way. The trainee should be able to effectively communicate a risk assessment under response conditions.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to provide a concise risk assessment of the driving environment when requested (Including; road, weather, traffic, any other relevant hazards, own speed and risk level)
- Know how to assess risk whilst driving an emergency service vehicle in a response situation
- Be able to utilise the system of vehicle control when responding to risk
- Be able to apply the system of vehicle control when responding to changing circumstances
- Understand how the system of vehicle control helps in the management of risk

## Unit 7.4 Emergency route planning

### Objective

This section should cover how to plan a route or journey in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to plan a route in an emergency response situation and make adjustments to the route as necessary.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Understand what emergency plans and routes should comprise of
- Be able to plan routes in an emergency situation
- Understand when to adjust routes in an emergency situation

# Module 8: Driving standards and vehicle assessment

---

## Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual
- ESDS Tactical Response Guidelines
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook

## Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans.

## Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and lead instruction will be needed for most objectives. You may use a simulator if appropriate.

## Overview

This module covers using the principles of Roadcraft in an emergency response situation. It includes how to maintain the Emergency Services Driving Standard while responding to an emergency situation and using warning equipment.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Be able to maintain concentration when driving in an emergency response situation.
- Be able to maintain the Emergency Services Driving Standard while using warning equipment and responding to an emergency.

## Unit 8.1 Maintains driving standards

### Objective

This section should cover the skills needed by trainees to maintain the Roadcraft system of vehicle control in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to employ the Roadcraft system of vehicle control while under pressure.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to maintain the system of vehicle control in an emergency response situation
- Be able to maintain concentration when in an emergency response situation

## Unit 8.2: Vehicle assessment for response

### Objective

This section should cover how to assess the characteristics and limitations of different vehicles and warning equipment in emergency response situations. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to make a judgement on whether the vehicle and warning equipment is fit for the emergency response.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know the range of limitations related to vehicles and warning equipment
- Be able to make a judgement on limitations of vehicles and warning equipment for emergency response
- Be able to make a decision on whether a vehicle and its warning equipment are fit for purpose
- Understand why and how the emergency response should be adapted to the vehicle and its warning equipment
- Be able to adapt the emergency response to the vehicle and its warning equipment

# Module 9: Emergency response driving

---

## Information you will need

- The Rules of the Road
- Emergency Services Driving Standard Guidance Manual
- ESDS Tactical Response Guidelines
- Roadcraft the Police Driver's Handbook

## Equipment

A vehicle, lesson plans.

## Teaching styles

You may use a range of training methods to achieve the objectives. A practical demonstration and lead instruction will be needed for most objectives. You may use a simulator if appropriate.

## Overview

This module covers driving in emergency response situations in a range of traffic conditions. It covers responding to an emergency while sharing the road safely with other road users. On completion of this module, the trainee should be able to make safe progress through traffic when responding to an emergency and be able to show restraint, where necessary.

### By the end of this module a trainee will:

- Be able to make progress through traffic in an emergency situation
- Be able to make progress through traffic when using warning equipment
- Understand that safety should not be sacrificed for the emergency response
- Be able to use the correct type of sirens and signals with different road users
- Be able to adapt warning equipment to the response situation
- Understand that consideration should be given to other road users before activating warning equipment.

## Unit 9.1 Use of legal exemptions

### Objective

This section should cover the legal exemptions that can be exercised by an emergency service driver at level 3. On completion of this section, the trainee should have an in-depth understanding of the legal exemptions, when to use them and when to refrain from using them.

#### Specific learning goals:

- This section should cover the legal exemptions that can be exercised by an emergency service driver at level 3
- Understand the limitations of legislation and legal exemptions
- Understand the dangers associated with exercising legal exemptions during emergency response driving
- Understand the responsibilities associated with emergency response driving
- Know how to exercise restraint while making use of legal exemptions
- Understand the implications of making use of legal exemptions
- Understand the nature of the emergency service drivers duty of care
- Understand the regulations relating to the fitting and use of emergency lights and sirens

## Unit 9.2 Progress and restraint

### Objective

This section should focus on how to make progress when driving in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to make safe progress through traffic and exercise restraint where necessary.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to make progress through traffic in an emergency situation
- Be able to make progress through traffic when using warning equipment
- Be able to make progress with consideration for exemptions
- Be able to control speed to make appropriate progress through traffic
- Be able to show restraint, where necessary
- Understand the situations where you may need to show restraint
- Be able to overtake safely in an emergency response

## Unit 9.3 Anticipation

### Objective

This section covers how to anticipate hazards while driving in an emergency response situation. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to anticipate the reactions of other drivers and anticipate other hazards while in an emergency response situation.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Know how to use information to anticipate hazards in an emergency response situation
- Be able to use the restraint – react – respond technique to anticipate and respond to hazards
- Know how to formulate flexible driving plans for dealing with hazards
- Be able to interpret and respond to other service vehicle lights and sirens in multiple vehicle situations
- Be able to respond safely to the reactions of other road users to the emergency service vehicle
- Understand the importance of being seen when in an emergency response situation
- Understand that safety should not be sacrificed for the emergency response

## Unit 9.4 Emergency response driving tactics

### Objective

This section should cover how and when to apply the ESDS emergency response driving tactics. On completion of this section, the trainee should be able to use the appropriate driving tactics including the use of sirens and warning systems in an emergency response situation.

#### Specific learning goals:

- Be able to coordinate position and signals to warn other road users of your presence
- Understand that you should wait for the vehicle in front to react to the presence of the emergency service vehicle
- Understand that a delayed response may cause confusion to drivers
- Be able to respond to road user actions in a safe and timely fashion

- Be able to correctly apply response tactics in a range of driving contexts including junctions and traffic controls
- Be able to adapt warning equipment to the response situation
- Be able to adapt the use of sirens and signals for vulnerable road users
- Know when and how to use emergency lights
- Know when and how to use emergency sirens
- Understand when warning equipment should not be used
- Know when to adopt lighting combinations in different situations
- Know how to acknowledge the presence of other emergency service vehicles
- Understand that in normal circumstances lights should be activated before sirens
- Be able to use a change in siren noise to warn other road users of presence
- Understand the benefits of switching off the siren when in stationary traffic
- Understand that alternating headlamp flashers should not be used during hours of darkness
- Know the guidelines for using sirens in convoys or when following another emergency service vehicle
- Be able to adapt response to a multi-vehicle response
- Be able to adapt the use of sirens and signals for livestock













## Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre Road Safety Authority

Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín,  
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill,  
Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

**locall:** 1890 40 60 40 tel: (096) 25 000

**fax:** (096) 78 290

**email:** [esds@rsa.ie](mailto:esds@rsa.ie)

**website:** [www.rsa.ie/esds](http://www.rsa.ie/esds)