

ROADWAY SAFETY - MAY 10, 2022

With the sun finally coming out of hibernation, the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company wanted to take a few minutes to discuss roadway safety. In 2020, there was a fatal traffic crash every 8 hours on Pennsylvania roadways. 168 people were injured in traffic collisions every day in the commonwealth. As first responders, we are witness to a number of traffic laws that get misunderstood or those which residents are unaware of.

Move Over, Slow Down - Drivers Must move at least one open lane over or slow to 20 MPH under the posted speed limit upon approach and while traversing through an emergency response area. An emergency response area may have emergency medical, fire or police personnel using their emergency lighting and/or tow operators, road or utility workers using their visual signals. According to PennDOT, 151 emergency responders have been struck and killed in Pennsylvania.

Duty of Driver on Approach of Emergency Vehicle – When a police, emergency medical or fire vehicle making use of its audible and visual signals, the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and 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 that position until the emergency vehicle has passed.

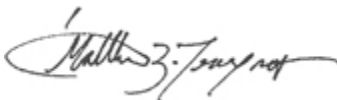
Distracted Driving – Distracted driving is any time you take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel or your mind of the primary task: driving safely. Distracted driving includes:

- Texting
- Reading/Entering GPS Information
- Eating/Drinking
- Applying Makeup
- Dealing with Kids/Pets
- Tired Driving

Persons Authorized to Direct Traffic – Members of our company have received specialized training for assisting in roadway emergencies. It is unlawful to willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction.

Inoperable or Malfunctioning Traffic Control Devices – If a traffic-control signal is out of operation or is not functioning properly (storm resulting in power failure to the traffic lights), vehicular traffic facing a red or completely unlighted signal shall stop in the same manner as a stop sign, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

Your friends at the fire company want you to travel and arrive safely at your upcoming get-togethers. We'd prefer to keep our vehicle extrication tools in tip-top shape and use them for training exercises only.



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North Penn Vol. Fire Company
Protecting North Wales and
Lower Gwynedd Since 1888