



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

Law of the Month – January

If you can remember, we recently did a law of the month in June of this year regarding obedience to traffic officers, signs, and signals. At that time, we had tied that law of the month in with the “Road Closed” signs that you may see with construction, and that you cannot go around those signs. This month is going to be regarding that same law, however, we are going to cover the fact that this same law applies to first responders with motor vehicle crashes, etc. If you come up to an intersection and you see a squad car, firetruck, etc., that has that intersection blocked, **do not** try to go around that vehicle. That road is blocked for a reason, and you going around the emergency vehicle, cones, or barricades, not only puts you in danger, but also puts everyone on that scene at risk as well, especially at night. When you see an emergency vehicle blocking the road, turn onto the closest open road that you see away from the accident. Typically, when first responders get to a scene, when resources permit, we try to have units block the nearest crossroad(s) from the accident. When you see an emergency vehicle parked sideways blocking your lane, turn onto that next open crossroad ahead of the emergency vehicle/emergency responder. From there you can find a parking lot and GPS a different way to your destination if you are unaware on how to get there. Do not drive all the way up to the first responder’s cones, and ask “Can I get through here? I just have to get to _____”, because the answer will be no. Not only does this take time away from the officer assisting the crash, but this also impedes the flow of traffic. Also, do not stop in the middle of the road and wait for a first responder to walk up to your vehicle. Again, if you see an emergency vehicle parked sideways in your lane, do not just go into that other lane and go around it. That emergency vehicle is there for a reason. A great thing that you can do to better prepare yourself is to know more than one way home. You may run into difficulties if that road is the only way from point A to point B that you know.

Wisconsin State Statue 346.04 Obedience to traffic officers, signs and signals; fleeing from officer.

- (1) No person including a personal delivery device operator shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order, signal, or direction of a traffic officer.
- (2) No operator of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any official traffic sign or signal unless otherwise directed by a traffic officer.
- (2t) No operator of a vehicle, after having received a visible or audible signal to stop his or her vehicle from a traffic officer, federal law enforcement officer, or marked or unmarked police vehicle that the operator knows or reasonably should know is being operated by a law enforcement officer,

shall knowingly resist the officer by failing to stop his or her vehicle as promptly as safety reasonably permits.