

FYI...FYI...

ORS 820.320:Illegal operation of emergency vehicle or ambulance; penalty. (1) A person commits the offense of illegal operation of an emergency vehicle or ambulance if the person is the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance and the person violates any of the following:

- (a) The driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance may only exercise privileges granted under ORS 820.300 when responding to an emergency call or when responding to, but not upon returning from, an emergency. The driver may exercise privileges granted under ORS 820.300 when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.
- (b) The driver must use visual signal with appropriate warning lights when the driver is exercising privileges granted under ORS 820.300.
- (c) In addition to any required visual signal, the driver must make use of an audible signal meeting the requirements under ORS 820.370 when the driver is proceeding past a stop light or stop sign under privileges granted by ORS 820.300 (1) (b).
- (d) A driver who is exercising privileges granted under ORS 820.300 by parking or standing an emergency vehicle in disregard of a regulation or ordinance prohibiting that parking, stopping or standing, shall not use the audible signal.
- (e) In exercising the privileges under ORS 820.300 (1) (e) relating to buses and bus safety, the driver must first stop the vehicle and then must:
 - (1) Determine that no passengers of the bus remain on the roadway; and
 - (2) Proceed with caution.
- (f) In proceeding past any stop light or stop sign granted under the privileges by ORS 820.300, the driver must slow down as may be necessary for safe operation.
- (g) The driver must not exceed any designated speed limit to an extent, which endangers persons or property.
- (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle that is operated as an emergency police vehicle is not required to use either visual signal or audible signal as described in this section in order to exercise the privileges granted in ORS 820.300 when it reasonably appears to the driver that the use of either or both would prevent or hamper the apprehension or detection of a violator of a statute, ordinance or regulation.

ORS 820.300 Exemptions from traffic laws:

- (1) Subject to conditions, limitations, prohibitions and penalties established for emergency vehicles and ambulance drivers under ORS 820.320, the driver may do any of the following:
 - (a) Park or stand in disregard of a statute, regulation or ordinance prohibiting that parking or standing.
 - (b) Proceed past a red signal or stop sign.
 - (c) Exceed the designated speed limits.
 - (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
 - (e) Proceed past the flashing bus safety lights without violating ORS 811.155 if the driver first stops the vehicle and then proceeds only when the driver:
 - (A) Determines that no passengers of the bus remain on the roadway; and
 - (B) Proceeds with caution.
 - (2) The provisions of this section:
 - (a) Do not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.
 - (b) Are not a defense to the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance in an action brought for criminal negligence or reckless conduct.
 - (c) Except as specifically provided in this section, do not relieve the driver from the duty to comply with ORS 811.155.

To Cory Hamann,

Thank you for your time and effort on our community newsletter, The Bulletin. The Butte Falls Volunteer Fire Department would like to say to you that what you wrote on the front page of your last issue was awesome! You are correct when you say no pay, no benefits, no vacations and no fear. But what we do get is acknowledgement like your Big Red Truck story. That's why we do what we do! To know that we are helping people in need and that they feel blessed and thankful for it keeps us going on to the next call. Enjoy your extra free time; we know that you to received no pay and no benefits from your job at the Bulletin desk. Thank you for your donation of wit and words and your time. Sincerely.....The Butte Falls Volunteer Fire Department and the Mercy Flights Butte Falls Medics.

