

ROAD SAFETY



Many things can make driving risky. Speeding, not paying full attention to the road, and driving while tired all increase your chances of a crash. Whether you're driving up or down the hill through the Cajon Pass, or going through the Badlands, traveling through the White Water area on interstate 10 or on your to or from Beautiful Blythe, Road Safety is important for your journey to keep your self and others safe.

Is It Safe to Pull Over on The Side of a Highway?

The short answer is yes, under some conditions. You must educate yourself on the things to do before you pull over on the side of the highway. It is possible to do so safely, but if you do not know how to go about the situation, consider the following tips to help you be safe while on the side of the road.

Typically, the safest side of the road to pull over on the side of the highway is the right side. On the right shoulder of the highway, you will have more space to get away from traffic if you encounter car troubles.

Do Not Panic

One of the worst things you can do when you need to pull over on the side of the highways is panic. Losing your cool can cause you to make rash decisions and put yourself and others in danger.

If you encounter a problem with your car that requires you to pull off of the highway, you must make sure that you stay calm and focus on the steps to take to stay safe.

Make Sure Your Hazards Are On

After your initial realization that there is a problem with your car, you then need to alert other drivers that something might be wrong. Turn your hazards on to let people know that there is a problem so that you can more easily begin pulling off the highway.



RISING GAS PRICES



Gas Prices Hit an All-Time High

Gas prices have hit an all-time high last week with the Riverside County's average reaching \$5.54 per gallon— a massive increase from the week prior, according to SoCal NBC News.

The previous high was in 2008, data shows. Experts say the situation probably won't get better any time soon and might even get worse, so county departments might want to start thinking now about ways to save on gas.

What does that mean for us here at the County level and using County Vehicles to conduct business? According to Fleet Services gases prices are assessed on a weekly basis, and currently just like the rest of the State there has been slow incline on gas prices.

Now more than ever is the time to fine-tune your driving habits and find ways to maximize your savings on gas to ease the squeeze on your department budget.

How to Save Amid Rising Prices

Be Strategic With Your Travel

Driving less is one obvious way you can reduce the cost of gas. But along with driving less, you could also take measures to drive more strategically. For example, you can try to plan ahead and combine errands. Did you know that several short trips, each one taken from a cold start, can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm? When you're behind the wheel, it also helps to drive sensibly and avoid aggressive driving, such as speeding, rapid acceleration, and hard braking. Aggressive driving can lower your highway gas mileage by 15%-30% and your city mileage by 10%-40%, according to Fueleconomy.gov.

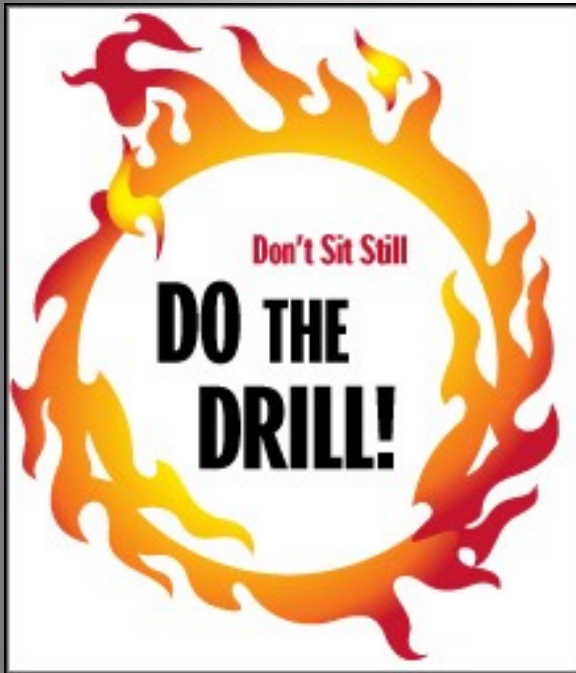
Here are several things you can do over time to help reduce gas consumption, including:

- Minimize idling your car: It can use a quarter to a half gallon of fuel per hour, depending on engine size and air conditioner use, adding up to three cents of wasted fuel a minute.
- Rideshare: See if any of your coworkers are heading in the same direction to conduct business.
- Keep your tires properly inflated: Having low tire pressure can affect the car's performance, tire longevity, and fuel economy.

Avoid using air conditioning: Turning on the AC regularly in your car consumes more gas. If it's not too hot out roll the window's down and enjoy the SoCal breeze.

FIRE DRILL/ EVACUATION

APRIL 2022



It's that time of year again in the County of Riverside, time to practice safe evacuation procedures in case of a fire or emergency at your facility. If you've been with the County for a while you probably remember the drill, but practice makes perfect and in the event of a real fire or emergency at your facility you may only get one chance. When was the last time you walked around your office or building and observed fire precautions? Do you remember where the fire extinguishers are? The fire alarm activation points? Do you know what kind of audio or visual cues are in operation around your office? If you have co-workers with physical limitations, do you have a plan in place to assist them with safe evacuation? Over the next few weeks you have an opportunity to answer these questions and many more. Pull out your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and familiarize yourself with the evacuation procedures for your office or facility.

WHY EVACUATE ?



There are a number of reasons to evacuate a County facility. The most obvious is when a fire threatens the safety of the occupants. Other reasons may include the threat of toxic fumes from chemical spills affecting the building, bomb threats when there is enough information to believe it is not a hoax or when the building may have been damaged by a strong earthquake.

WHEN TO EVACUATE:

Evacuations may be initiated in several ways:

- Activation of the building fire alarm system (not all buildings have such a system, but for those that do, evacuation should begin immediately without questioning whether it is a false alarm or not).
- Use the public address system or "face to face" directions.
- Spontaneous evacuation in response to an observed emergency.
- Facility Manager or a Supervisor's request to evacuate.

**LOOK.
LISTEN.
LEARN.**
Be aware.
Fire can happen anywhere™



FIRE DRILL/ EVACUATION

HOW TO EVACUATE A BUILDING SAFELY:

When an evacuation becomes necessary, you should:

- Calmly and quickly proceed to the nearest safe exit.
- Instruct clients or visitors who are present to exit with you.
- Use only the EXIT stairways. (NOTE: Using stairs can be hazardous if you wear high-heeled shoes. You should keep a spare pair of “stair shoes” near your workstation).
- Never use an elevator during an evacuation unless told to do so by the emergency response personnel. Elevators may malfunction and trap their passengers during a fire or following an earthquake. At the time of the evacuation announcement, you will not know how long it will be before you will be allowed to reenter the building. For that reason, you should take all necessary personal possessions with you only if possible; you do not want to put your safety at risk for an item. If time allows, turn off equipment such as tools, computers, cooking appliances, etc. before leaving. If left on and unattended, they could become a hazard or be damaged.



KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY EXITS:

Most people are only aware of how they entered the building and will therefore, use the same route to leave. In an emergency, it may be necessary to use an alternate route. Learn the location of ALL exits from your work area or building, and practice an evacuation on your own, to find out where exits lead. Be aware of ALL available exits in the event the regular exits become unusable. All County buildings are required to have a floor plan posted with the exits clearly indicated.

WHEN NOT TO EVACUATE:

There may be situations where it is more dangerous to leave the building than it is to stay inside. An example might be a toxic cloud that is passing by outside. In situations such as these, take appropriate measures (such as shutting off the ventilation system and closing doors and windows) and tell employees to stay inside.

INSPECTING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

APRIL 2022

Every County owned or leased building, by State law, is required to provide fire extinguishers for use in a fire emergency. Knowing how to inspect and deploy a fire extinguisher is an important part of your department's safety program and will save lives in the event of a fire emergency at your facility.

Fire Extinguisher Inspection

First, take a look at the extinguisher. What do you see? Well, if you see any of the following you might need to contact Facilities Management

- Powder or liquid leaking from anywhere on the extinguisher
- Dents, holes or rust on the tank
- A cracked or missing hose
- Missing safety pin or tie
- The needle inside the pressure gauge positioned anywhere other than in the green

If you see any of these defects, document and notify your supervisor immediately.



Yearly/Monthly Inspection Tag

This tag is a very important part of your department's safety program. The front shows the annual inspection date of the extinguisher. The yearly inspection is mandated by the California State Fire Marshal. The day, month and year of the inspection are hole punched and clearly visible from the front. All extinguishers past the yearly inspection date should be documented and the information passed on to Facilities Management or your department's supervision.

The back of the tag shows the required monthly visual inspection dates. All County fire extinguishers shall be inspected on a monthly basis to ensure operability.

