



# OPERATIONAL BRIEF

USE OF U-TURN FACILITIES AND CROSS-OVERS

September 2016

**In July 2015, an Operational Brief was issued to members regarding the use of U-Turn and cross-over facilities on motorways and highways in NSW RFS vehicles.**

**A recent court matter, relating to a fatal accident on a motorway north of Sydney and involving a NSW RFS member driving a tanker, has led to uncertainty about emergency vehicles legally using these facilities.**

**While urgent clarification is sought on this matter, all Service members are now directed that cross-over points or emergency U-Turn bays on motorways or highways are not to be used. This includes where the facility is marked for the use of emergency service vehicles.**

**More information about this is below.**

The court case related to a fatal accident involving a NSW RFS tanker which occurred in October 2012.

During proceedings, a number of technical points of law have been raised which has led to some uncertainty about emergency vehicles using U-Turn and cross-over facilities.

The NSW RFS is currently seeking urgent legal advice on this matter to ensure clarity for our members.

While this advice is being sought, to avoid any uncertainty, Service members are directed that cross-over points or emergency U-turn bays on motorways or highways are not to be used. This applies to incident responses and normal traffic conditions, and even where a cross-over point is marked for use by emergency services.

NSW RFS vehicles should travel to the next exit ramp or point on the motorway and re-enter the roadway.

The only exceptions to this should be where a road is closed or operating under controlled conditions, such as traffic is being directed by police.

This directive remains in place until further advised and replaces the advice provided to members in an Operational Brief in July 2015.

The NSW RFS is continuing to work with Roads & Maritime Services and other emergency services in seeking guidance and clarity on this matter as a matter of urgency.

**Rob Rogers AFSM**  
Deputy Commissioner