

## DRIVING AROUND BARRICADED ROADWAYS

### WHAT IS A BARRICADE?:

Section 472.022(e) of the Texas Transportation Code defines a **barricade as "an(y) obstruction placed on or across a road, street, or highway of the state...by a political subdivision of the state (a city)... to prevent the passage of motor vehicles over the road, street, or highway during construction, repair, or dangerous condition.**

Notice that the law does not state that the street has to have a formal barricade to be blocked. The law states that anything can be used as an obstruction to block passage. This can be equipment such as backhoes, loaders, etc. or even city vehicles.

### WHAT IS THE VIOLATION?:

Therefore, if you come down a street that is blocked in any way by city vehicles, equipment, or barricades of any kind you cannot drive around the barricades or obstructions. Driving around barricades is a violation of Section 472.022(a)(2) of the Texas Transportation Code. The fine for this violation can be between \$1.00 and \$200.00.

The law goes on, however, to provide that if the area is marked as a construction zone and workers are present at the time you drive around the barricade or obstruction then the fine is doubled (\$2.00 to \$400.00). The City has recently purchased the signs required to identify the areas being worked on as construction zones and therefore fines will be doubled for this offense.

### SAFETY OF OUR WORKERS:

Many times when our city workers are out repairing water lines in streets or repairing the streets we have drivers speed around our workers endangering the workers. When you drive by one of our construction areas/repair areas please consider the safety of our workers. **If the road is barricaded or obstructed in any way then do not drive around the barricades.** There is no valid excuse for jeopardizing the safety of our city workers.