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**Figure 5.1. Fire Engine Straddling Speed Cushion during a Trial Demonstration**  
(Source: Jeff Gulden)

In Orange County, California tests were conducted to evaluate the effect of speed cushions on delay of navigation for fire vehicles. A detailed summary of the study was published in the *ITE Journal* in 2008 and has been one of the key supporting documents for the use of speed cushions to meet the needs of fire ve

The tests were conducted in La Habra, Orange County, California, and involved Brea, California, and Orange County fire department vehicles. Each vehicle traversed a set of three speed cushions with various g and with different approaches: straddling the smaller cushion and crossing the cushions while staying in lane (similar to a speed hump). The speeds of fire vehicles straddling the smaller, center cushion were normal operating speeds on the roadways, and significant delay at the cushions was not observed. Crossing cushions while staying in a travel lane (similar to a speed hump) resulted in maximum vertical deflection at crossing speeds. The tests led to successful implementation of speed cushions as the key component of traffic calming plans in both cities (La Habra and Brea, California). Other jurisdictions have found similar results in minimal to no delay to fire vehicles.