

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVING

This guideline establishes a driver training and authorization program for Fairfield County Firefighters. It applies to County emergency vehicles and privately owned vehicles that have been approved to operate as authorized emergency vehicles per SOG-009. The program will help firefighters develop and maintain their driving skills. The program benefits the firefighter as well as the fire service by developing the firefighter's driving skills and establishes rules for emergency vehicle driving.

GUIDELINES:**I. Structure:**

1. All firefighters will possess a valid South Carolina driver's license, preferably CDL Class A or B or CDL Class A or B permits, both with the tank endorsement.
2. Firefighters with a class D, E, or F license will have the special firefighter endorsement sticker affixed to the back of the license by the fire department safety officer.
3. Fire departments will participate in the South Carolina Safety Officer Program in order to be authorized to apply the special firefighter endorsement sticker. Contact CDL Compliance at 803-896-9606 to request participation in the program.
4. Only volunteers classified as Volunteer II or Volunteer III may respond to emergency vehicles to emergencies.
5. Firefighters will not be under S.R. 22 insurance and will have a good driving record.
6. Firefighters will provide a copy of their driving record to show that he/she is not under S.R. 22 insurance and has a good driving record.
7. Firefighters will be able to drive a vehicle with a manual transmission.
8. Firefighters will successfully complete the SC Fire Academy's Emergency Vehicle Driver Training class before being authorized to operate an authorized emergency vehicle (this includes POV's).

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

9. Firefighters will provide documentation of completion of EVDT to their station chief before certified by the station chief or his designee.
10. A firefighter who has not completed EVDT is prohibited from driving a fire apparatus while responding to an alarm or during a simulation of emergency response driving unless the simulation is authorized and under direct approved supervision of the station chief. All such driving is to be done under non-emergency conditions, and will be governed by state and local laws.
11. Persons under 18 years old may not ride in emergency vehicles that are responding Code 3 to emergency incidents.

II. Evaluation and Authorization:

1. When a firefighter completes EVDT and the station chief feels that he or she is capable of handling a fire apparatus, the chief or his designee will perform an evaluation of the proposed driver using an approved drive authorization check off sheet. (See Attachment 1)
2. If the proposed driver passes all evaluation criteria, that firefighter will be authorized to operate authorized emergency vehicles involved in emergency responses.
3. A County Fire Service Driver Authorization Card will be issued and the Firefighter must maintain this card in his possession at all times while driving a County Emergency Vehicle. (See Attachment 2).

III. Driving

1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:
 - i. Park or stand, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
 - ii. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
 - iii. Exceed the maximum speed limit if he does not endanger life or property.
 - iv. Disregard regulations governing direction or movement or turning in specified directions.

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

- v. The exemptions in this section granted to an authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the vehicle is making use of an audible signal meeting the requirements of Section 56-5-4970 and visual signals meeting the requirements of Section 56-5-4700.
- 2. Drivers may not exceed the posted speed limit by more the ten (10) miles per hour.
- 3. Drivers may not pass a stopped school bus.
- 4. Drivers should avoid backing up. When it is necessary to back up, a spotter will be used. If a spotter is not available, the driver will walk around the vehicle to determine that there are no obstructions present.
- 5. The provisions of this policy and state law do not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.
- 6. Persons riding in emergency vehicles will wear a seat belt at all times when vehicle is in motion.
- 7. Riding on tailsteps, sidesteps, and running boards, or in any exposed position will be specifically prohibited except when reloading the hose in the hose beds.
- 8. When loading hose, a safety observer will be appointed to oversee the operations. He/she will not assist with hose loading and will have an unobstructed view of the hose loading operation. He/she will be in visual and voice contact with the apparatus operator. The apparatus will be driven only in a forward direction at a speed of five (5) mph or less.
- 9. During emergency response, fire vehicles should avoid passing other emergency vehicles. If passing is necessary, permission must be obtained through radio communications.
- 10. When stopped at the scene of an incident, vehicles should be placed to protect personnel who may be working in the street and warning lights will be used to make approaching traffic aware of the incident. At night, vehicle mounted floodlights and any other lighting available will be used to illuminate the scene. All personnel working in or near traffic lanes will wear high visibility turnouts or vest.

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY RURAL FIRE BOARD
GUIDELINES AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

11. If the vehicle has air brakes, allow time for the pressure to build up before pulling out of the station.
12. Before pulling out of station, turn on the radio, lights, and siren.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FIRE SERVICE
Driver Check Off Sheet
SAMPLE ONLY-USE FORM FROM FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

| Pump Skills Evaluation | Pass/Fail |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Set Brake | |
| 2. Place pump in gear | |
| 3. Choke wheels | |
| 4. Pull tank to pump | |
| 5. Adjust to proper pump discharge pressure of first line | |
| 6. Throttle to proper pressure (+ or -5 psi) | |
| 7. Connect 5" intake hose | |
| 8. Signal for water | |
| 9. Bleed air from intake hose | |
| 10. Open piston intake | |
| 11. Shut tank to pump | |
| 12. Adjust to proper pump discharge pressure on second line | |
| 13. Set pressure relief valve | |

All items must be completed without mistake to successfully pass. The firefighter will have a minimum of two (2) hose lines in operation.

| Driving Skills Evaluation | Pass/Fail |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Maneuvers left turns properly | |
| 2. Maneuvers right turns properly | |
| 3. Maneuvers urban business street properly | |
| 4. Maneuvers underpass properly (check for height and clearance) | |
| 5. Maneuvers stops properly | |
| 6. Maneuvers left curves properly | |
| 7. Maneuvers right curves properly | |
| 8. Maneuvers railroad crossing properly | |
| 9. Maneuvers entrance to freeway/interstate properly | |
| 10. Maneuvers lane change properly | |
| 11. Maneuvers downgrades properly | |
| 12. Maneuvers upgrades properly | |
| 13. Backs vehicle properly | |

Final Grade: Pass/Fail

Driver Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief's/Asst Chief Signature: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

ISSUE DATE: 11/29/10

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**County Fire Service Driver Authorization Card
to be developed at a later date**