

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

**SUBJECT: PRIVATLEY OWNED VEHICLES OPERATED AS AUTHORIZED
EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

Privately owned vehicles may be operated as authorized emergency vehicles provided the operator follows the guidelines listed below.

GUIDELINES:

1. The vehicle must be transporting individuals actually engaged in emergency activities because one or more occupants belong to a fire department, volunteer fire department, police department, sheriff's office, authorized county government litter enforcement office, rescue squad, or volunteer rescue squad.
2. The vehicle will be equipped with a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five (5) hundred feet and of a type approved by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, but such siren will not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to a emergency call.
3. The vehicle must be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which must be capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level and to the rear two alternating flashing red lights located at the same level, and these lights must have sufficient intensity to be visible at five (5) hundred feet in normal sunlight. However, when equipped with a mounted, oscillating, rotating, or flashing red light, visible in all directions for a distance of five (5) hundred feet in normal sunlight, the vehicle is not required to have additional signal lamps.
4. The vehicle owner should advise his insurance company that the vehicle is sometimes operated as an authorized emergency vehicle.
5. The recommended insurance liability coverage is \$100,000 bodily injury per person, \$300,000 bodily injury per accident, and \$100,000 property damage. A one million dollar umbrella policy is also recommended.
6. The vehicle operator must be authorized to operate emergency vehicles in accordance with SOG-008 Emergency Vehicle Driving and abide by the guidelines of it when responding to emergencies.
7. Firefighters desiring to have their privately owned vehicle recognized by the Fire Board as an authorized emergency vehicle must register it with the Fire Marshal's office by completing Attachment 1 and sending it to the Fire Marshal's office through their chief. A new Attachment 1 must be executed any time the information changes.
8. Fire chiefs will ensure that the guidelines of this policy are complied with.

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SAMPLE ONLY-USE FORM FROM FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Privately Owned Vehicle Operated as Authorized Emergency Vehicle
Authorization Form

Date: _____

Fire Department: _____

Operator's Name: _____

Operator's Driver's License Number: _____

Have you informed your insurance company that your vehicle will be operated as an authorized emergency vehicle? Yes No (Circle One)

Are you authorized to operate emergency vehicles? Yes No (Circle One)

Does the siren meet the requirements? Yes No (Circle One)

Do the lights meet the requirements? Yes No (Circle One)

Vehicle Make, Model, & Year: _____

I certify that the above statements are true and I agree to abide by the requirements of the SOG-009.

Firefighter's Signature: _____

Print Name and Call Number: _____

Fire Chief, does this vehicle and operator meet requirements of SOG-009? Yes No (Circle One)

Chief's Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Place a copy of this attachment in department files and forward the original to the Fire Marshal's office.

ISSUE DATE: 11/29/10