
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

Operations

Subject: Driver/Operator
Revised: 7-1-09
Effective: 10-20-09
Approved: 9-24-09 (Fire Chief)
Section: 418.00

418.01 Purpose

To establish training requirements for drivers of all emergency vehicles.

418.02 Training

- A. Prior to operating any fire company vehicle in the emergency mode, the driver will successfully complete one of the following emergency vehicle driving courses:
 - 1. MFRI Emergency Vehicle Driver In-service
 - 2. MFRI Emergency Vehicle Operator Course
 - 3. VFIS Emergency Vehicle Operator Course
- B. The driver will demonstrate proficiency with each type of apparatus prior to being approved to drive that type of apparatus. This demonstration will be by driving a course approved by the Chief and operating the aerial and /or pump on the apparatus, if so equipped. A working knowledge of the equipment on the apparatus will also be demonstrated. This testing will be done by an approved member of the Training and Safety Section. Once the testing has been completed to the satisfaction of the evaluator, the Fire Chief, a Deputy Chief or an Assistant Chief shall be notified and may authorize that driver to drive that type of apparatus.
- C. Those members wishing to drive apparatus equipped with a fire pump must successfully complete a Pump Operator Course by May of 2010.
- D. Those members wishing to drive apparatus with an aerial device must successfully complete an Aerial Apparatus Operators course by May of 2010.
- E. The Department will provide annual training on emergency vehicle operations. All drivers will take a re-certify annually. Those requirements may be found in the Department's Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Program.

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418.03 Responsibility

- A. All members are responsible to operate all emergency vehicles in accordance with Maryland State Vehicle Law.
- B. All members are responsible to drive in a defensive and safe manner.
- C. It is the responsibility of the officer riding in the emergency vehicle or in the absence of an officer, it is the responsibility of the driver/operator, that all passengers/occupants have their seat belt properly secured prior to the vehicle becoming mobile.
- D. Drivers operating in an emergency mode should be able to come to a complete stop at a stop sign or traffic signal device, allowing other traffic to yield before proceeding past or through the stop sign or traffic signal device.
- E. Drivers operating in an emergency mode may not pass a stopped school bus with flashing red lights, unless it is safe to do so and the bus driver has signaled passage.