
Ocean City Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Safety

Subject: Privately Owned Vehicle Response

Revised: 15 September 2018

Approved: 18 December 2018

Effective: 1 February 2019

Section: 712.00

712.01 Purpose

To establish guidelines for the response to department incidents/events in privately owned vehicles (POV).

712.02 Scope

This guideline applies to all personnel.

712.03 Policy

A. Personnel responding to department incidents in a privately owned vehicle shall follow all laws and regulations for the State of Maryland that apply to non-emergency vehicles. The exceptions to this are defined in 712.03 B - D.

B. In accordance with § 22-218 (3)(ii) of the Maryland Transportation Article, Audible and visual signals on vehicles, the following individuals may equip their privately owned vehicles with red lights or signal devices, so long as those devices are only utilized while on route to or at the scene of an emergency:

1. The fire chief or highest ranking fireline officer;
2. One or more of the assistant chiefs or deputy chiefs, whichever rank is second in command; and
3. The emergency medical services commander.

C. In accordance with § 22-218 (3)(iii) of the Maryland Transportation Article, Audible and visual signals on vehicles, the fire police of each volunteer fire company may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red lights or signal devices, so long as those devices are only used while the vehicle is at the scene of an accident, flood or other emergency to which the volunteer fire company is responding.

D. Department members who function as fire police officers shall comply with those regulations established by the Worcester County Fire Police Association and the Sheriff of the Worcester County.