

## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 5.4.2**

### **TOPIC - APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR - TRAINING**

#### **PURPOSE:**

To establish a standard training process which will develop efficient, safety conscious apparatus drivers and operators for the District.

#### **GENERAL:**

Training for drivers and apparatus operators will be based upon two elements, basic principles of theory and skill development. Each person who is to be trained will be monitored and assessed continuously through the program. It is recognized that people will enter into our system with differing levels of experience and capabilities. Training will be adjusted to accommodate the specific needs and capabilities of the individual without compromising our duty to ensure safe, courteous drivers, and efficient apparatus operators.

#### **GUIDELINE:**

##### **Driving:**

1. Senior fire fighter/drivers and station officers may be utilized as driving instructors.
2. Driver trainees will be assigned an advisor who will be their primary instructor.

**NOTE:** It is recognized that at times the availability of the assigned instructor may not meet the needs of the trainee. A temporary, alternate instructor may be used under this condition. The assigned advisor/instructor must be kept informed of any changes of the status of the trainee.

3. Progress of the trainee will be monitored using a Task Book containing the essential components of the driver training program. A separate Task Book will be used for each basic type of apparatus.

**NOTE:** Driver trainees will start with driving smaller apparatus such as the rescue vehicle.

**NOTE:** At the discretion of the driver instructor, a driver in training may be allowed to drive while responding to a "Code 1" alarm. Depending upon the capabilities and experience of the trainee the instructor may elect to trade places with the trainee during an alarm response. Prior to successful completion of the state driver task

performance evaluation a trainee shall not drive either solo or under "Code 3" conditions.

4. Apparatus familiarization training elements:
  - a. Location and function of all gauges related to driving the specific apparatus.
  - b. Location and function of all controllers and signals (lights, heater, siren, etc.).
  - c. Location and basic function of all pedals, levers and latches.
  - d. Use of the radio including head-set as available.
  - e. Adjustment devices for the seat and steering wheel as available.
  - f. Location of all equipment carried on the apparatus.
5. Apparatus driving training elements:
  - a. Pre-trip inspection.
  - b. Smooth throttle engagement.
  - c. Application and limitations of braking systems.
  - d. Appropriate use of transmission and shifting systems.
  - e. Maneuvering the apparatus under a variety of conditions.
6. Apparatus operation training elements:
  - a. Identification and use of specialized features of the apparatus (winch, generator, lighting, etc.).
  - b. Basic principles of fire service hydraulics.
  - c. Nature and limitations of the pump for specific apparatus.
  - d. Operation of all components of the pump.
  - e. Operating the pump under a variety of conditions.
7. The driver trainee will be authorized for solo, non-emergency, driving once the trainee has successfully completed the state driver task performance evaluation.

**NOTE:** Once a trainee has been authorized for solo non-emergency driving, they may drive "Code 3" provided that the trainee is at least 21 years of age, and that there is an officer/instructor in the front seat making such an order.

8. The final step in the driver training program is to gain certification to drive under emergency conditions, "Code 3". Endorsement for solo "Code 3" driving will be at the discretion of the station officer and in conjunction with the Fire Chief.
9. Experienced drivers modified training program:
  - a. Driver from another fire department:
    1. Review training record to determine adequacy.
    2. Apparatus familiarization in the same manner as inexperienced

- drivers.
3. Demonstrate pump operation competency.
  4. Driver skill evaluation using the same course as a certification task performance test.
  5. Any skill or knowledge areas that are found to be below our expectation will require additional training by our instructors prior to authorization to drive under emergency conditions.
- b. Professional driver with a current commercial driver license:
1. Attend emergency driver class.
  2. Apparatus familiarization in the same manner as inexperienced drivers.
  3. Attend sessions related to pump operation.
  4. Driver skill evaluation using the same course as a certification task performance test.
  5. Any skill or knowledge areas that are found to be below our expectation will require additional training by our instructors prior to authorization to drive under emergency conditions.