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- SUBJECT: VEHICLE OPERATION**
- POLICY:** All Department vehicles will be operated in a safe manner consistent with all department policies, procedures and SOGs.
- PURPOSE:** To provide for the safety of fire personnel and citizens on the roadways.
- SCOPE:** All department personnel.
- PROCEDURE:**
- 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES**
 - a. Only members of the department or such persons as have been granted permission by an officer shall be allowed to ride on the apparatus. Any non- department member shall sign a liability release form prior to riding on fire apparatus. A liability release form shall not apply to staff vehicles.
 - b. Seatbelts shall be worn by all personnel whenever department vehicles are in motion.
 - c. If in responding to or returning from alarms, more than one apparatus is on the same street, avenue, or road they shall proceed in single file and shall not attempt to pass each other unless authorized by an officer and verbalized over the operating channel.
 - 2. VEHICLE SAFETY**
 - a. The driver shall keep the vehicle under control at all times.
 - b. Any personnel responding to emergency situations, shall not be under the influence of any illegal drug or controlled substance, or have consumed any alcohol during the previous eight (8) hours.
 - c. Caution should be exercised when pulling out of the station, with the driver having the responsibility to make sure the front of the station is clear.
 - d. While on or around firefighting apparatus, members are expressly prohibited from engaging in horseplay.
 - e. There shall be no boarding of any Fire District vehicle at any time after said vehicle is in motion.
 - f. Riding on the hose bed; either going to or returning from a drill, fire call or emergency is strictly prohibited.
 - g. When apparatus is at an emergency incident and not legally parked, red emergency lights shall be on. Traffic cones or flares shall be set when the situation warrants.
 - h. When backing any vehicle or apparatus, ***Driving Standards SOG 522.10.01*** will be followed.



3. DRIVER CRITERIA

The Fire District has a legal and moral obligation to insure that any driver of department vehicles is well trained, in good physical condition, has a proper safe driving attitude, knowledge of department policies and procedures and be capable of handling the apparatus with a high degree of skill and common sense. These factors show that not everybody will qualify as a driver, but may excel in other Fire Department duties and should not feel discouraged because they are not a fire apparatus driver.

- a. No person shall drive a department vehicle prior to being authorized by the Chief or his designee. Authorization shall only occur following the completion of an apparatus check form and the recommendation of an officer for each vehicle to be operated.
- b. No person shall drive a Department vehicle in excess of 26,000 GVW or greater than 12 passengers prior to being EVAP/EVIP certified.
- c. Drivers of emergency vehicles will be at least eighteen (18) years of age. All drivers shall have a driver's license that is current and valid in the State of Washington.
- d. Personnel will be evaluated on each individual vehicle type prior to being authorized to drive.
- e. Physical Condition – any past history of:
 - i. Heart attacks
 - ii. Strokes
 - iii. Seizures

shall require a Doctor's release prior to becoming a Fire Department driver.

- f. Driving Records - A Motor Vehicle Records (MVR) Abstract will be obtained on all newly hired employees and volunteers. Subsequent MVRs shall be obtained every three years. The Department of Motor Vehicle point system (based on A and B violations) will be used in determining a member's ability to operate department vehicles.
 - i. Class A Violations: An individual who has a Class A violation within the past three (3) years normally receives a license suspension from the Department of Motor Vehicles which issued the license. Any individual convicted of a Class A Violation will be suspended from driving Department vehicles. Conviction may also result in termination from the department. Class A Violations include the following:
 - ii. Driving while intoxicated



- iii. Driving while under the influence of drugs
- iv. Negligent homicide arising out of use of a motor vehicle (gross negligence).
- v. Operating during a period of suspension or revocation.
- vi. Using a motor vehicle for the commission of a felony.
- vii. Aggravated assault with a motor vehicle.
- viii. Reckless driving.
- ix. Hit-and-run driving.

NOTE: Failure to notify the District within 72 hours of receiving a citation for any of the above violations may result in immediate termination.

- g. Class B Violations: Any individual who has accumulated three (3) Class B moving violations or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period shall be issued a warning letter from the Chief. An individual who has more than three (3) Class B violations, convictions, or chargeable accidents or accumulation of more than three (3) of the above in a three (3) year period may be suspended from driving Department vehicles. Class B Violations include all moving violations not listed as Type A violations.

Note: Unusual circumstances with individual cases would be evaluated on an individual basis.

4. ACCIDENT REPORTING

- a. It is the responsibility of each member to immediately report all accidents to the On-Duty Battalion Chief.
- b. The unit involved will render assistance or aid to the injured.
- c. A full accident report shall be completed immediately upon returning to the station.
- d. Apparatus will be placed out-of-service under the following conditions:
 - i. Injury
 - ii. Anything other than very minor property damage. (at the discretion of the officer)
 - iii. Damage to Fire Department vehicle where, in the opinion of the Officer, the vehicle could not safely continue response, i.e. damage to steering, brakes, lights, etc.
- e. If the vehicle is not able to respond to the emergency, leave the vehicle in place until released by law enforcement.



- f. The On-Duty Battalion Chief (BC) will initiate the accident investigation.
 - i. Obtain names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses.
 - ii. If possible obtain statements of witnesses.
 - iii. No statements shall be made except to a Fire District Officer.
 - iv. Initiate follow up drug test of Fire Department vehicle operator(s) as appropriate (**Substance Abuse Policy No. 524.07.11**).
 - v. Notify the District's Safety Officer.
- g. In the absence of a BC, the Officer will initiate the accident investigation.