



Standard Operating Guidelines
Section 50.0

SECTION:		GUIDELINE:	
50.0		Driving/Seatbelts	
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Driving Requirements

State and local laws provide certain exemptions for authorized emergency vehicles from regular traffic laws when responding on emergencies. However, neither state or local laws nor these guidelines are intended to absolve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the responsibility of due regard for the safety of others on the road.

Fire apparatus may only be operated by individuals meeting all of the following requirements:

- A. Members of Evansville Fire District.
- B. Members who have a valid driver's license.
- C. Members who do not have Alcohol or drug related violations on their driving record such as a Driving Under the Influence (DUI).
- D. Members who have successfully completed an approved driver training program, based on NFPA 1002- Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications (Trainee drivers may operate apparatus when under the supervision of a qualified driver.)
- E. Members over the age of 18.
- F. Members who have satisfied their probationary period.

Before entering a fire station:

- A. A Spotter should always be used when backing, if available.
- B. Consideration must be taken for the possibility of pedestrians within the fire station.

Before exiting from a fire station:

- A. The driver will insure all apparatus compartment doors are securely closed.
- B. All personnel are seat belted in proper locations.
- C. Insure apparatus bay door is raised fully and enough clearance is available to clear apparatus height.
- D. Test brakes before entering street.

Safe Driving:

- A. All audible and visible warning devices shall be in operation when responding to an emergency incident.
- B. The driver shall maintain a speed that is safe under the prevailing conditions, and in no case shall exceed 10 MPH over the posted speed limit.
- C. When approaching a controlled intersection (i.e. stop sign, traffic light):
 - 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may proceed past a stop sign or red light only after slowing down or stopping to ascertain that the intersection is clear.

2. The driver or an authorized emergency vehicle may disregard regulations governing the direction of movement and turning in specific directions as long as he/she does not endanger life and/or property.
- D. School zone related driving:
1. Observe the posted speed limit for school zones when children are present or when speed warning lights are flashing.
 2. Fire apparatus, both emergency and non-emergency traffic shall stop for school buses loading or unloading as indicated by their flashing lights and/or stop sign.
- E. Upon first unit's arrival on an emergency scene:
1. The 360-degree size up of the scene is completed by the Officer in the 1st arriving unit .
 2. If the situation is not urgent, other responding units should be advised to continue to the scene "non-emergency mode" or disregard and return to their respective stations.
- F. Drivers of fire apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of the vehicle at all times.
- G. Any member of the Evansville Fire District who is involved in an accident while responding to an incident shall remain on the scene of the accident and immediately notify the proper authorities and Fire Chief.

Use of Personal Vehicles:

1. Personal vehicles are not authorized emergency vehicles unless visual and audible warning devices are provided and operated as described in Sub. 3 of Wisconsin Statute 346.03.
2. Personal vehicles used to respond to emergencies are not covered by Evansville Community Fire District insurance policy.
3. Unless specifically authorized, warning lights and sirens shall not be used outside of the limits of the Evansville Community Fire District. Warning devices of any kind shall be used only when responding to an alarm received for the Evansville Community Fire District.

Backing:

When backing an apparatus, a minimum of one spotter shall be at the driver's side rear of the apparatus. The spotter(s) is/are responsible for guiding the Driver and ensuring that any potential hazards are avoided.

They shall position themselves to have an unobstructed view and be in visual and voice/radio contact with the apparatus driver. Spotters shall not ride the tailboard while backing apparatus. If the Driver loses visual contact with the spotter(s), the Driver shall stop the apparatus immediately. Vehicle mounted cameras or other devices are not a substitute for a spotter.

In situations where assistance is not available and the apparatus must be immediately moved, the Driver shall first walk completely around the apparatus before backing to ensure no obstructions will interfere with vehicle operation.

Mandatory Seatbelts

The driver of any Evansville Fire District vehicle or apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

Drivers shall not move fire department vehicles or apparatus until all persons are seated and secured with seat belts in approved riding positions.

All persons riding in fire department vehicles or apparatus shall be seated and secured by seat belts or safety harnesses at any time the vehicle is in motion. Riding on tail boards, side steps, running boards, or in any other exposed positions, or standing while riding shall be specifically prohibited.

Department members are exempt from wearing seat belts while actively performing emergency medical care while the vehicle is in motion, where requirements to be seated and restrained with seat belts would jeopardize patient care. The driver shall take extraordinary precaution in recognition of the additional danger that exists while driving with unrestrained member(s). All other persons in the vehicle shall be seated and restrained with seat belts in approved riding positions while the vehicle is in motion.

