

Yamhill Fire Protection District

District Policies, Procedures, & SOG's

MISSION

*Yamhill Fire Protection District is dedicated to
serve and protect our community*

District Policies

OPERATIONS

OPS - GEN – 403

Vehicle Safety Standards

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Issued: January 11, 2005

Revised: September 9, 2014

It is the Policy of the Yamhill Fire Protection District to insure that all drivers of District vehicles are well trained, in good physical condition, have a safe driving attitude and driving record and are capable of handling the apparatus with a high degree of skill and good sense. Drivers must meet the following minimum standards. Standard Operating Guidelines for vehicle safety are outlined in SOG OPS-GEN #403.2

1. It is the policy of the Yamhill Fire Protection District to obtain motor vehicle reports through the District's insurance carrier, as outlined in Policy 712 "Driving Record", for any new member for the purpose of determining if an individual meets driver underwriting guidelines before the driver may operate any District vehicles.
2. No person shall drive a District vehicle under emergency conditions prior to being authorized by the proper authority. See SOP OPS-GEN #403.1
3. No person under 18 years of age shall drive a District vehicle under emergency conditions, unless authorized by the Chief or a designated representative.
4. No person shall drive any District vehicle without a valid driver's license.
5. All vehicles owned by the District shall bear external identification indicating that they are property of the District.
6. All drivers **shall:**
 - a. Complete an approved Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) prior to being authorized to drive.
 - b. Complete the department driver's manual for each specific vehicle they are assigned to drive. Demonstrate proficiency in operating the vehicles annually through direct observation on responses, during drills and or exams by the Fire Chief or his designee.
 - c. Complete individual fire department training as required.

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7. District drivers **SHALL NOT:**
 - a. Be under the influence of alcohol.
 - b. Be under the influence of illegal drugs.
 - c. Be under the influence of prescription drugs that have the potential to impair the individual unless released by their physician.
8. Operators of District vehicles shall not transport civilians or other unauthorized persons in or on District vehicles except as authorized by the Fire Chief or his/her designated representative, in an official capacity, or as provided in this policy.
 - a. Staff Vehicles. Civilians are not permitted to travel in District staff vehicles, except when such civilians are:
 - i. Accompanying a District Member to an official District function.
 - ii. Directly involved in the transaction of District business.
 - iii. Transported as a result of District response to a public assistance call.
 - iv. Only civilians participating in an authorized ride-along program with proper forms recorded are allowed to ride code three to calls.
 - b. All other emergency vehicles. Only District members shall be allowed to ride in all other district vehicles. Civilians are not permitted to ride in District emergency vehicles, except when such civilians are:
 - i. Directly involved with an alarm emergency.
 - ii. Participating in an authorized ride-along program with proper forms recorded.
 - iii. Participating in a scheduled and approved public relations program.
9. Seat belts shall be worn at all times when the vehicle is in motion unless doing so interferes with Patient care.
10. To assure a safe response to emergencies, vehicles shall be operated subject to the conditions stated in ORS 820.300 – 820.320 with particular attention to ORS 820.300 (2)(a) and (b) (See attached) and District SOG #403.2.

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11. District vehicles shall be used only in the course of official District business, and not for personal business or private gain. However, those personnel that are expected to respond to calls, such as the "Duty Officer" and/or Fire Chief, will be allowed discretionary use of their assigned vehicle, which could include the transportation of civilian personnel as above in section 8 a. i-iv.
12. The Fire Chief with approval of the Board may assign vehicles to personnel. Members that have vehicles assigned to them must be cognizant of their high visibility and the potential damage to the public trust if misuse occurs. Violation of this policy or any misuse of District vehicles shall result in disciplinary action.
13. District vehicles are not to leave the District other than on official District business, for maintenance purposes or as approved in advance by the Fire Chief.
14. Unless authorized by a supervisor, operators assigned to a District vehicle equipped with a radio shall maintain the radio on the appropriate frequency, and shall not turn the radio off while operating the vehicle except when responding to situations involving explosive devices believed to be electrically or electronically activated.
15. It is the responsibility of each member to immediately report any and all accidents to their supervisor and complete the required paper work.

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AMBULANCES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

(Application of Traffic Laws)

820.300 Exemptions from traffic laws.

1. Subject to conditions, limitations, prohibitions and penalties established for emergency vehicle and ambulance drivers under ORS 820.320, the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance may do any of the following:
 - a. Park or stand in disregard of a statute, regulation or ordinance prohibiting that parking or standing.
 - b. Proceed past a red signal or stop sign.
 - c. Exceed the designated speed limits.
 - d. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
 - e. Proceed past the flashing bus safety lights without violating ORS 811.155 if the driver first stops the vehicle and then only when the driver:
 - A. Determines that no passengers of the bus remain on the roadway; and
 - B. Proceeds with caution.
2. The provisions of this section:
 - a. Do not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all other persons.
 - b. Are not a defense to the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance in an action brought for criminal negligence or reckless conduct.
 - c. Except as specifically provided in this section, do not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance from the duty to comply with ORS 811.155. [1983 c.338 s.757; 1985 c.16 s.362; 1995 c.209 s.5]

820.310 [1983 c.338 s.758; 1985 c.16 s.363; 1985 c.278 s.2; repealed by 1995 c.209 s.7]

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820.320 Illegal operation of emergency vehicle or ambulance; penalty.

1. A person commits the offense of illegal operation of an emergency vehicle or ambulance if the person is the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance and the person violates any of the following:
 - a. The driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance may only exercise privileges granted under ORS 820.300 when responding to an emergency call or when responding to, but not upon returning from, an emergency. The driver of an emergency vehicle may exercise privileges granted under ORS 820.300 when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.
 - b. The driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance must use a visual signal with appropriate warning lights when the driver is exercising privileges granted under ORS 820.300.
 - c. In addition to any required visual signal, the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance must make use of an audible signal meeting the requirements under ORS 820.370 when the driver is proceeding past a stop light or stop sign under privileges granted by ORS 820.300 (1)(b).
 - d. A driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance who is exercising privileges granted under ORS 820.300 by parking or standing and emergency vehicle in disregard of a regulation or ordinance prohibiting that parking, stopping or standing, shall not use the audible signal.
 - e. In exercising the privileges under ORS 820.300 (1)(e) relating to buses and bus safety lights, the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance must first stop the vehicle and then must:
 - A. Determine that no passengers of the bus remain on the roadway; and
 - B. Proceed with caution.
 - f. In proceeding past any stop light or stop sign under the privileges granted by ORS 820.300, the driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance must slow down as may be necessary for safe operation.
 - g. The driver of an emergency vehicle or ambulance must not exceed any designated speed limit to an extent which endangers persons or property.
2. The driver of an emergency vehicle that is operated as an emergency police vehicle is not required to use either visual signal or the audible signal as described in this section in order to exercise the privileges granted in ORS 820.300 when it reasonably appears to the driver that the use of either or both would prevent or hamper the apprehension or detection of a violator of a statute, ordinance or regulation.
3. The offense described in this section, illegal operation of an emergency vehicle or ambulance, is a Class B traffic violation. [1983 c.338 s.759; 1985 c.16 s.364; 1995 c.209 s.1]