

<b>RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FIRE and RESCUE ASSOCIATION</b>	NUMBER: 204
<b>STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE</b>	PAGE 1 of 1
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Vehicle & Traffic Safety	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 02/20/2009
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**PURPOSE:** To provide appropriate safety guidelines for fire and rescue personnel when operating emergency vehicles or deployed at the scene of a roadway incident.

**BACKGROUND:** To reduce the chances of emergency responders being involved in secondary roadway incidents.

**POLICY:**

1. Emergency vehicles shall always be operated with due regard for life and property.
2. Seatbelts shall be utilized by all occupants whenever the vehicle is in motion. An exception to this policy are situations where patient care in an ambulance limits the effective use of seatbelts. All ambulance personnel should be belted when not actively treating or touching the patient.
3. During emergency responses, vehicles should come to complete stop prior to proceeding through any controlled intersection against the signal of a light or Stop sign. The vehicle may proceed after all traffic in apposing lanes has stopped or been cleared.
4. Whenever possible, apparatus should be positioned at the scene of a roadway incident in such a manner as to create an effective safety barrier between the scene and moving traffic.
5. When parking an emergency vehicle at the scene, the front wheels should be turned away from where personnel or patients will be located.
6. The driver/operator of any emergency vehicle shall ensure that their vehicle's parking brake is applied before exiting the cab, and place wheel chocks if equipped at the scene of any incident.
7. Personnel operating in or near a roadway should be wearing a Safety Vest per SOG 203. Helmet use is also highly recommended for all personnel.
8. Orange traffic cones should be utilized whenever possible to provide a visible safety perimeter around apparatus parked in or near the roadway for emergency incidents, training, and public service events.
9. On roads with speeds 45 mph or greater the first cone should be deployed 250 feet behind the first emergency vehicle. The cones should then be placed to merge traffic around the scene safety zone created with additional cones.
10. The vehicle operator is responsible for timely and appropriate deployment of traffic cones.
11. The use of high beam headlights at night and/or the placement of scene lighting should be considered with regard to any potential to cause temporary blindness of passing motorists.