

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FIRE and RESCUE ASSOCIATION	NUMBER: 401
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE	PAGE 1 of 3
SUBJECT: APPARATUS DRIVER REQUIREMENTS	EFFECTIVE DATE:02/20/09
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PURPOSE: To establish minimum requirements for all operators of emergency vehicles in Rappahannock County.

BACKGROUND: Due to each company having its own driving requirements, and the possibility of members from other companies driving that companies apparatus. A standard minimum driver requirement is recommended.

DEFINITIONS:

POLICY: All drivers of emergency vehicles in Rappahannock County will complete an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1. E.V.O.C. 1 for vehicles under 10,000 # (Cars, Light Trucks)
2. E.V.O.C. 2 for vehicles over 10,000 but under 26,000 # (Ambulance, Brush/Attack units)
3. E.V.O.C. 3 for over 26,000 # (Engines, Tankers, Ladder trucks)

This training must be completed before personnel may drive in an emergency mode.

Drivers selected to start a driver training program may drive an emergency vehicle but shall be limited to training and non-emergency activities.

Detailed training records shall be kept on all trainees during their training period. The training records should include vehicle check out, hands on driving time, and unit familiarization.

All drivers must have four (4) hours of driving time and be familiar with the unit they will testing on before attending an E.V.O.C. class.

All staff under the age of eighteen (18) should not be allowed to drive emergency vehicles to emergency calls under any circumstances. **No Exceptions.**

Drivers between the ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21), will be an emergency vehicle operator trainee. These trainees may only be used if an emergency situation occurs and there is not a certified operate present at that time, and the trainee has been trained sufficiently, and approved by the officer in charge to act in this capacity.

All drivers shall be subject to periodic medical evaluation as determined by the company. This evaluation is to determine if the driver has the physical ability to adequately perform his or her duty as an operator of emergency vehicles.

All new drivers should have sufficient hands on training to effectively demonstrate their capability of handling emergency vehicles necessary to perform their duties, ten (10) hours minimum.

A Department of Motor Vehicles check should be done on every driver and trainee on an annual basis. This report should reflect not more than two (2) Class B and *no* Class A violations in a three year period. Drivers should voluntarily report any personal violations received.

Class A Violation

- Any individual who has a Class A violation conviction will have their driving privileges suspended for a period of eighteen (18) months. Additionally, any of these individuals would also be required to attend an approved driver-improvement program, or equivalent training, and be recertified to operate emergency vehicles.

Class B Violations (21-65)

- Any individual who has a combination of two (2) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will be issued a warning letter from the chief officer or administrative officer of their company.
- Any individual who has a combination of three (3) moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will be issued a suspension of driving company vehicles for a period of ninety (90) days by the chief officer or administrative office of their company.
- Any individual who has more than three (3) moving violation convictions or three (3) chargeable accidents or any combination of more than three (3) of the formerly stated violations in a three (3) year period will be issued a suspension of driving of company vehicles for a period of one (1) year. In addition, the same individual would be required to complete an approved driver improvement program and be re-certified to operate emergency vehicles.

Class B Violation (age 18-21 and over 65)

- Any individual who has a combination of two (2) Class B moving violations or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period shall be issued a warning letter from the chief officer or administrative officer of the company.
- Any individual who has more than two (2) Class B moving violation convictions or chargeable accidents or a combination of more than two (2) of the above in a three (3) year period will be issued a suspension of driving company vehicles for a period of one (1) year. In addition, this individual would be required to complete an approved driver improvement program and be re-certified to operate emergency vehicles.

Violations- The designation of type A and Type B violations are based on a survey of state point systems. Violations receiving higher numbers of points are classed as Type A.

- **Type A Viaolations**

1. Driving while intoxicated.
2. Driving under the influence of drugs.
3. Negligent homicide arising out of the use of a motor vehicle (gross negligence).
4. Operating during a period of suspension or revocation.
5. Using a motor vehicle for the commission of a felony.
6. Aggravated assault with motor vehicle.
7. Operating a motor vehicle without owner's authority.
8. Permitting an unlicensed person to drive.
9. Reckless driving.
10. Hit and run driving.

- **Type B Violations**

All moving violations not listed as Type A. (Exceeding the speed limit is a Type B violation).

All drivers are required to complete annually an in house driver re-certification program that covers the Preventive Maintenance, Record Keeping, Legal Requirements, Defensive Driving, and Unusual Circumstances Driving. This training can come from programs provided by VFIS. Specific training of vehicle functions such as Pumps, Tanks, Aerial Devices, Hydraulics, etc. should also be re-certified for all Fire Apparatus drivers on an annual basis.

The chief officer reserves the right to suspend or revoke driving privileges for a just cause.