



WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

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SOG Title: Vehicle Response Safety		
Approved by:	Re-evaluation Date: January 2009	Number of Pages: 2

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to assure the efficient response of personnel and apparatus to the scene of an emergency without danger to public or private property, or injury or death to civilians or Ware Fire Department personnel.

Scope: This procedure shall apply to all personnel responding to any type of emergency in any type of vehicle, in any official vehicle not including private vehicles.

Enforcement: The driver of each vehicle bears full responsibility for adherence to this procedure. The driver of the emergency vehicle is responsible for driving with due regard for the safety of others on the road. The driver remains fully accountable for his/her actions.

Seat Belts: The driver shall not move the apparatus until all personnel have boarded the vehicle and are seated with seat belts fastened.

Warning Devices: All visual warning devices shall be in operation when making an emergency response. Audible warning devices shall be used as needed.

Speed: Under ideal conditions (light traffic, dry roads, and excellent visibility) the maximum speed of any responding vehicle shall be 10 MPH over the posted speed limit. Under less than ideal conditions the maximum allowable speed shall be the posted speed limit. The driver shall always maintain a speed consistent with the safe operation of the vehicle under the prevailing conditions.

School Buses: Under no circumstances shall a driver proceed through the flashing red or yellow lights of a school bus even if waved through by the operator of the bus, or if passengers are boarding or leaving the bus.

Driving Left of Center: Driving in the center lane or left of center is extremely dangerous and should be avoided whenever possible. If it is necessary to drive in the center lane or left of center the use of extreme care and appropriate speed shall be exercised.

Intersections: Intersections are the most dangerous areas to approach during an emergency response. The following precautions shall be observed by all responding vehicles:

- When an emergency vehicle must approach an intersection in the center lane or left of center the driver shall come to a complete stop until all other traffic in the intersection has yielded. This applies even when the emergency vehicle has a green light at a controlled intersection.
- When approaching a controlled intersection (stop sign or traffic light) with a negative right of way (red light or stop sign) the emergency vehicle shall come to a complete stop until all other traffic in the intersection has yielded the right of way.
- The maximum allowable speed through any intersection shall be the posted speed limit.

Passing Emergency Vehicles: Passing other moving emergency vehicles on an emergency response is dangerous, and is prohibited unless a clear line of site and a safe distance is assured.

Driver Attention: The driver shall focus full attention on the safe operation of the vehicle. The sole responsibility of the driver during an emergency response is to drive. The driver shall not operate the radio, lights, siren, or any other equipment unless he/she is responding alone.

Reduced Response: The first command officer or shift officer to arrive at the emergency scene shall evaluate the need for other responding vehicles to continue as an emergency response. Whenever possible other responding vehicles shall be advised to continue in a non-emergency mode (red lights activated no siren) at no greater than the posted speed limit.

Approach Safety: On approaching the emergency scene all drivers shall watch for other emergency vehicles approaching from other directions. They shall drive with extreme caution and be constantly on the alert for firefighters and civilians who may be distracted by the emergency and may step in front of the approaching apparatus.