

EMERGENCY DRIVING

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Purpose: *Driving an emergency vehicle is a serious responsibility. It requires the driver to maintain positive control of self and vehicle. This procedure is intended to reasonably ensure that vehicles are in reasonably safe operating condition, and the operators are sufficiently trained to drive a vehicle on an emergency run.*

Procedure:

1. Each member must take and pass a "Defensive Driving and Emergency Response Course" before red lights and siren are issued.
2. Each member must attend the annual practical driving exercise. This includes the classroom and the practical portions of the drivers training program. Copies of the Kentucky Drivers Manual will be made available at the fire department library.
3. All red lights and sirens will meet the requirements set forth in K.R.S.189.920. Red lights and sirens are to be free of obstructions and in good working order to the satisfaction of the officers. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the suspension of the privilege of operating red lights and siren, and may be cause for removal of such equipment.
4. All members' vehicles that are equipped with red lights and siren must pass a semi-annual vehicle safety examination as well as providing proof of current automobile insurance.
5. Firefighters should avoid having civilians in their vehicles when making an emergency run, though it should be understood that this may occasionally occur.
6. No one shall ride in the bed portion of a pick-up truck, either firefighter's or fire department's, when the pick-up truck is making an emergency run, except when directed by the Incident Commander.
7. No firefighter shall use another firefighter's personal vehicle to make emergency runs, without the fire chief's approval.
8. No probationary firefighter shall use the red lights and siren on a fire department vehicle, unless he/she is directed to do so by the Incident Commander, or the probationary firefighter has been approved to have such equipment on his/her personal vehicle.
9. Unless approved by the fire chief, all members must use red lights and sirens provided by the fire department on their personal vehicles.
10. Red lights and sirens on personal vehicles shall not be used outside of the Okolona Fire District boundaries except where approved by the Okolona Fire Chief, and chief of the neighboring department.
11. Motorcycles shall not be used to make emergency runs.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

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12. No one shall make an emergency run while pulling a trailer or any other type of vehicle, except when directed by the Incident Commander.
13. No one shall make an emergency run in a pick-up truck or other truck vehicle if such vehicle is loaded in a manner which is detrimental to vehicle handling.
14. All members shall comply with applicable state statutes when making an emergency run, giving particular attention to driving with due regard for the safety of the public.
15. No one shall exceed the posted speed limit by more than 15 miles per hour except when the responding members have a legitimate reason to believe there is a serious threat of a life being lost.
16. No one shall cut through parking lots and similar arrangements for the purpose of avoiding a traffic light.
17. No one shall pass a school bus when the bus loading or unloading children, as indicated by the red lights being illuminated or the stop arm extended.
18. If a member is involved in an accident while making an emergency response, he/she is to remain at the scene to render aid. If an apparatus is involved in an accident, the duty officer shall be contacted, if practical, for instructions. The incident to which the apparatus is responding may be of such nature where one member remains at the scene, while the apparatus continues its response. A guideline is the threat of life loss due to a fire. The duty officer, fire chief, safety officer and fire marshal are to be contacted in any case where a member or fire department vehicle is involved in an accident.
19. Failure to exercise reasonable care and caution when making emergency responses is cause to revoke the privilege of using siren and red lights, and any other appropriate disciplinary action.
20. No one shall make an emergency response within eight (8) hours after consuming alcoholic beverages. Depending upon the quantity of alcoholic beverages consumed, this time may need to be increased to ensure that members are responding without having their judgment impaired by alcohol. The Kentucky Drivers Manual, as well as various Internet sites may provide information on alcohol consumption and how long it takes to "burn up" the alcohol.