

**GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Standard Operating Guideline**

<b>GUIDELINE: DRIVING FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES</b>			<b>SECTION: 207</b>
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**PURPOSE**

To provide members of the fire department with guidelines related to the driving of Glasgow fire department vehicles for emergency and non-emergency responses.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. This SOG shall include the guidelines set forth in the City of Glasgow Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.
2. All personnel shall possess a valid Kentucky Drivers license.
3. Any personnel that have their driving privileges suspended or revoked for any reason shall notify the Fire Chief immediately. Any personnel that have their driving privileges revoked or suspended shall not drive a Glasgow Fire Department vehicle until the driving privilege has been fully restored.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Driver Responsibility – The driver of a fire department vehicle is responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle at all times, including compliance with all traffic laws, as well as fire department policies and SOGs.
2. Officer Responsibility – The officer-in-charge (OIC) of a fire department vehicle is responsible for supervising the driver and all other assigned members; this includes ensuring that the driver complies with traffic laws, fire department policies, and SOGs.
3. Member Responsibility – All department members are required to comply with all safety policies and procedures while operating, riding in, or performing any function that involves a fire department vehicle.

**USE OF SEAT BELTS**

1. All personnel shall wear the safety restraints provided (seat belts) before any fire department vehicle is set in motion.
2. All personnel shall ride in a seated position.

**EMERGENCY DRIVING**

1. All emergency responses will be made with all emergency lights and sirens operating. Air horns and federal Q siren should be used within two hundred (200) feet of intersections.
2. Fire department vehicles may exceed the posted speed limit but shall be regulated at all times by existing road and traffic conditions and shall be done at all times with due regard.

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3. The Glasgow Fire Department vehicles shall respond in accordance with NFPA 1500 6.2.1 thru 6.2.14.2.2. All fire department vehicles when approaching a red traffic light, or a stop sign, shall come to a complete stop before proceeding.
4. All fire department vehicles may pass stopped or slowed traffic on the left. At multiple lane intersections, all drivers will access the safest lane to pass through the intersection due to traffic flow or congestion. At a raised road divider, fire department vehicles will not enter oncoming traffic lane but use a cleared lane of travel.
5. Upon arrival at an emergency scene, the driver shall leave all emergency lights activated until the scene has been cleared. Forward facing white lights should be turned off, if possible, while on scene.
6. When multiple units are responding in emergency mode, the officer arriving at the scene and assuming command of the incident shall determine if it is appropriate to downgrade the response of any units that are still responding. The additional units shall be directed to continue "at reduced speed" or non-emergency when the situation does not urgently require their presence at the scene.

**GENERAL FIRE ALARM RESPONSES**

1. When responding to a general fire alarm, the district station will respond emergency to the location. All other vehicles will respond non-emergency.
2. If the first arriving vehicle or a call from the facility reports a working fire or smoke showing, all units will upgrade to emergency.
3. Upon confirmation that the facility has no fire, the district unit will down grade to non-emergency and the other units will cancel on the response.

**NON-EMRGENCY DRIVING:**

When on a non-emergency assignment and when returning from an alarm, emergency lights and sirens shall not be used. All traffic regulations shall be observed. All traffic laws shall be obeyed when responding to an incident without LIGHTS and SIREN.

**SPOTTERS**

1. A spotter shall be used anytime when backing a fire department apparatus.
2. At least one firefighter will dismount with a portable radio and position themselves behind the apparatus, but visible to the driver before the apparatus is backed up.

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**DRIVER/OPERATOR STANDARDS**

Relief drivers

1. Shall have one (1) year of service with the Glasgow Fire Department to be tested for relief driver.
2. To be a relief driver the driver shall have a minimum of five (5) documented driver training progress reports completed by the officer.
3. The driver will complete the emergency vehicle driver cones course, set up the ladder exercise correctly, and then correctly pump an assigned engine with the correct pressures and procedures.
4. All drivers and relief drivers will have at least an annual driver's training refresher class, with a road course or competency cones course evaluation. It is up to the drivers and relief drivers to see the classes are taught and each firefighter receives the training.
5. All apparatus drivers/operators must meet the standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

**HIGHWAY AND INTERSTATE INCIDENTS**

1. Command will ensure that the first arriving apparatus establishes an initial block to provide a safe work area in at least one lane and place the pump panel in a position that would provide protection in the case of an accident. All personnel operating on scene should operate within the protected work area.
2. Command shall ensure that proper emergency lighting remains on, and that all forward facing white lights are turned off, if possible, to avoid blinding approaching vehicles.
3. All vehicles and equipment should be parked on the same side of the road (as is practical) as the incident, and in the same direction as the flow of traffic.
4. Firefighting personal protection should be worn (with discretion on use by the Officer in charge) and, as appropriate, an ANSI approved high visibility vest.
5. Use the apparatus to initially redirect the flow of traffic, and then the use of traffic control devices (cones) need to be utilized.

**DRIVING RECORD REVIEW**

The fire department shall obtain and review a copy of the member's motor vehicle record from the State Department of Motor Vehicles for individuals who are assigned a driving position or must drive as a condition of employment. Each authorized driver's motor vehicle record shall be reviewed periodically (at

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intervals of three years or less, with annual reviews recommended) to ensure that the individual maintains safe driving habits.