

Operating Guidelines

Section: Emergency Vehicle Operation

Subject: Rules & Standing Orders for Emergency Vehicles

Number: 501

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Scope

It is the responsibility of the driver of each fire apparatus to drive safely and prudently at all times. Vehicles shall be operated in compliance with the Highway Traffic Act. This act provides specific legal exceptions to regular traffic regulations when applied to Municipal fire vehicles, only when responding to emergency incidents. Responding to an emergency does not absolve the driver of any responsibility to drive with due caution. The driver of an emergency vehicle is responsible for its safe operation at all times.

Guidelines

501.1

Seat Belts: The driver shall not move the vehicle until the crew has signaled that all personnel are in place. Seat belts shall be worn.

501.2

Exiting the Station: On leaving the station the driver shall lightly apply the brakes to ensure their proper operation.

501.3

Driving in the Oncoming Traffic Lane: Driving in the oncoming traffic lane is extremely dangerous and should be avoided whenever possible. If it is necessary to drive in the oncoming traffic lanes, extreme caution shall be exercised and a **slow** safe operating speed must be maintained. This would only be acceptable as you approach a scene where lanes are blocked OR the highway is known to be shut down.

501.4

Stops Signs and Traffic Lights: Upon approaching a stop sign, or a red traffic light, the emergency vehicle operator (EVO) shall bring the fire truck to a complete stop. The EVO shall only proceed when it is safe to do so, utilizing all warning lights and sirens.

501.5

Radios can be operated (**only, if safe to do so**) by an EVO when responding to an alarm. The Officer or department member in the right-hand seat should carry out this operation, if practical.

501.6

Seat belts shall be worn at all times when riding in apparatus.

501.7

All personnel are prohibited from riding on the outside of any apparatus.

501.8

The EVO shall be directed at all times when backing up by a person visible in the left-hand mirror.

501.9

Caution and reduced speed shall be used when approaching the emergency scene.

501.10

At no time shall the driver of an emergency vehicle exceed the posted speed limit by more than 15km/h.