

# Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

**SUBJECT: VEHICLE RESPONSE SAFETY**

**SOG 401**

**PURPOSE:** To assure the efficient response of personnel and apparatus to the scene of any emergency without danger to the public or private property or injury or death to civilians or fire department members and comply with the requirements of SPS 330(2-4)

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply to all department members responding to emergencies or normal operations of the department vehicles.

**ENFORCEMENT:** The driver of any vehicle bears full responsibility for following safe driving practices and must have completed Driver Operator Course. Authority to deviate from this policy rests solely with the Officer in Charge who orders any deviation.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHALL ANY ASPECT OF SAFETY BE SACRIFICED IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE SPEED OF RESPONSE.**

Those laws of the State of Wisconsin governing any motor vehicle operation shall be followed.

1. The use of a cellular phone is prohibited while driving emergency vehicles.
2. When riding in an emergency vehicle seat belts shall be worn.
3. The driver shall not move the vehicle unless all passengers are seated with seatbelts fastened.
4. All warning devices, audible and visual shall be **on** during emergency responses unless the officer in charge determines that there is no need to run with red lights and siren. Headlights shall be on at ALL times.
5. Speed limits shall be determined by the driver from the variables of road and traffic conditions. The driver shall always maintain a speed consistent with safe operation of the vehicle under the prevailing conditions and with due regard to other vehicles and pedestrians.
6. Intersections shall be approached with extreme caution and the fire department vehicle shall slow down and/or stop until it is clear that all vehicles are yielding to the warning devices before proceeding through stop signs, traffic lights, opposite lanes or other controls.
7. Upon arrival and approaching the incident all drivers shall slow down and watch for other emergency vehicles approaching, watch for firefighters or civilians who may be distracted by the emergency and step in the path of vehicles.

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