

## **Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines**

**SUBJECT: SECONDARY BRAKING DEVICES**

**SOG 406**

**PURPOSE:** This standard operating guideline is intended to establish a procedure for using secondary braking devices while operating fire apparatus that are equipped with one.

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

**BACKGROUND:**

Secondary braking devices include engine brakes, exhaust brakes and drive shaft retarders. Some Egg Harbor Fire Department apparatus are equipped with exhaust brakes, engine brakes or drive shaft retarders. Secondary or auxiliary braking systems are important braking devices for heavy vehicles. They can account for 50% or more of braking power. However, in conjunction with service brakes on slippery roads, the use of auxiliary brakes can cause the drive wheels to lock-up and cause a skid.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A) The engine/exhaust brake has an on/off switch. The engine brake also has a Low, Medium and High position switch.
- B) The driver shall use his/her discretion as to use Low, Medium or High mode during normal driving conditions.
- C) Use of the engine brake or the drive shaft retarders will aid in stopping and reduce brake wear.
- D) The engine/exhaust brake or the drive shaft retarders will be turned off on all slippery road conditions, such as rain, snow or ice-covered roadways. If device is left on, skidding may occur on wet or slippery surfaces.
- E) Speeds will be reduced according to roadway conditions when driving with the engine brake on the Low setting or when the device is turned off.