



Monroe Fire Department

Standard Operating Guidelines Operation of Motor Vehicles

Purpose: This procedure is intended to provide a guideline for department members concerning the operation of department motor vehicles.

Level of Performance: All Operators of department vehicles must meet the requirements contained in this policy and The Drivers Clearance and Training procedure SOG.

Non-Emergency Driving

When driving department vehicles for purposes other than for response to an emergency, strict driving conduct and courtesy shall be observed. Members are aware that a department vehicle is a “moving billboard” advertising the department and how that vehicle is used and operated reflects upon the entire department.

Emergency Driving

Department vehicles when on an emergency response shall proceed with both visual (*warning lights*) and audible (*siren*) warning devices operating.

NOTE: A vehicle is an “Emergency Vehicle” only when **BOTH visual and audible warning devices are in operation.**

Drivers must maintain control of the vehicle at all times.

Applicable State Statutes – Emergency Vehicle

346.03 Applicability of rules of the road to authorized emergency vehicles.

The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in subs. (2) to (5).

The operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

- Stop, stand or park, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter
- Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation
- Exceed the speed limit
- Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

The exemption granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by oscillating or rotating red light except that the visual signal given by a police vehicle may be by means of a blue light and a red light which are flashing, oscillating or rotating, except as otherwise provided in sub. (4m). The exemptions granted by sub. (2) (b), (c) and (d)

apply only when the operator of the emergency vehicle is giving both such visual signal and also an audible signal by means of a siren or exhaust whistle, except as otherwise provided in sub. (4) or (4m).

The exemptions granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by this section do not relieve such operator from the duty to drive or ride with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons nor do they protect such operator from the consequences of his or her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

Speed Limit during Emergency Responses:

Members operating department vehicles during emergency responses shall be allowed to exceed posted speed limit with due regard to public safety so long as emergency lights **AND** siren are operating. This does not relieve the members' responsibility to operate department vehicles at a prudent speed based on current road and weather conditions.

Seat Belt Usage

No vehicle will be placed into motion until all passengers are seated and belted. The driver and/or officer are responsible to ensure that seatbelts are used by all personnel. Failure to use seatbelts will result in disciplinary action being taken against the offending member, the driver, and the officer on the vehicle.

Backing of Apparatus

All Department apparatus, with the exception of command vehicles without trailers shall have a spotter when backing up. The spotter will be positioned on the driver's side and to the rear of the vehicle. In congested areas two spotters should be used when possible. One spotter shall be located at the left rear of the apparatus, and one at the right front of the apparatus. The driver shall remain in visual and voice contact with the spotter(s) at all times. If visual contact is lost, the driver shall stop the apparatus immediately and remain stopped until visual contact is re-established.

If no assistance is available and the vehicle **MUST** be backed up, the driver shall dismount the vehicle and check around and above the vehicle to ensure that the apparatus can be backed up safely. Upon re-entry to the vehicle the operator will sound the vehicle horn prior to backing.

The apparatus Operator must always remain with the vehicle unless specifically directed by the Incident Commander or the apparatus officer to leave the vehicle or is relieved by another approved operator upon direction of the apparatus officer.

Implementation: This policy has been approved by the Officers of the Monroe Fire Department and the Monroe Common Council. This policy, and all adopted procedures, provide a guideline for operations within the Monroe Fire Department. Adoption of these guidelines in no way restricts the incident commander, department administration or the Monroe Common Council from modifying operations or implementing exceptions to policy in the interest of safety, efficiency and harmony within the organization. It shall remain in effect until withdrawn or modified by the department.

Effective Date: December 2, 2014