

	ROFR Section: 1101		TFCA Best Practices: 10.08	
	Effective: 1/2013	Revision: 8/2015	Fire Chief: 	

DRIVING POLICY

Purpose:

In as much as the Red Oak Fire Department is dedicated to the saving of life and property, it is imperative that we not endanger the lives of our own firefighters and the citizens of Red Oak by unsafe driving of Fire Department equipment.

Emergency Driving:

- A. When responding to fire alarms, ambulance calls or other emergencies, Drivers will drive the vehicle to the scene of the emergency safely and sanely. It is the duty of the Driver to arrive safely at destination. The Driver shall have the vehicle under control at all times.
- B. Safety belts shall be worn when Fire Department apparatus is in motion. Officers and Drivers are responsible for the safety of all riders. However, it is also the individual firefighters or rider's responsibility to wear safety belts at all times.
- C. It is the Driver's responsibility to be in complete control of his/her vehicle at all times. This is especially true when approaching intersections or when proceeding into any negative right-of-way situation. In these situations, the vehicle shall be driven at such a speed that will allow the driver to bring the vehicle to a complete stop before entering the intersection or right-of-way area.

- D. When passing schools, hospitals, through crowded streets or where traffic is heavy or congested, the Driver shall cause the Fire Department vehicle to be slowed to a speed consistent with safety. Driving that endangers life or property is strictly forbidden.

20 MPH IN SCHOOL ZONES PERIOD!

Emergency Warning Lights:

- A. Emergency warning lights will be used on all emergency runs.
- B. While operating at fires, while the apparatus is pumping water, or if necessary to provide for the safety of personnel or the apparatus, the emergency warning lights will remain on and the other lights will be turned off to conserve the battery. If the apparatus is not directly involved in the operation, and it is safely parked, it will be shut down completely.
- C. Emergency warning lights will not be used when returning to the station.

Audible Warning Devices:

Officers shall insure audible warning devices are sounded, as may be reasonably necessary, when responding at an alarm or other emergency. Audible warning devices on Fire Department vehicles shall not be used within hospital zones unless it is necessary.

Racing:

Racing department vehicles in any form or fashion is strictly prohibited.

Excessive Speed:

It shall be the Officer's responsibility to prevent excessive speed or unsafe driving practices. Officers who permit drivers to disregard safe driving practices will be subject to disciplinary action. Excessive speed is that speed above safe driving practices. In no case will speed exceed 5 miles per hour above posted speed limits in towns, or 10 MPH above posted speed limits on limited access highways, weather conditions considered.

Runs Through Adjoining Municipalities:

Extreme caution shall be exercised when Fire Department equipment is routed through adjoining municipalities. Personnel on emergency runs through adjoining municipalities are subject to all ROFR policies.

Responding Away From Station:

Extreme caution shall be exercised by companies answering an alarm when away from the station. Units will acknowledge receipt of alarm and broadcast their location of response if not in quarters. All companies should be alert to the fact that other companies will be responding by different routes.

Reducing Code:

A. A fire reported out:

1. After transmitting an alarm, the dispatcher sometimes receives a call that the fire is out. The dispatcher will then radio the companies answering the alarm and advise "The fire is reported to be out."
2. All companies will acknowledge receipt of message. The first due engine will proceed code 3 to investigate and all other companies will proceed code 1 (normal driving) until or unless otherwise advised by command.

B. "Nothing Showing:"

In the event the first-arriving officer reports "nothing showing" in

his/her size-up, units will acknowledge and reduce to code 1.

C. Upgrade:

It is, in all instances, the prerogative of the on-scene officer to upgrade the response of any unit dispatched to scene.

Apparatus in Reverse:

A. Officer's Responsibility:

It is the officer's responsibility to post a ground guide to assist the driver in backing.

B. Driver's Responsibility:

It is the driver's responsibility to keep ground guide in view at all times and to follow guide's directions.

C. Ground Guide's Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of the ground guide to be positioned with portable radio behind the left (driver's) side of the apparatus in such a manner as to be visible in the rear-view mirror and to safely guide the apparatus.

D. Exceptions:

1. Single-member companies not in close proximity to other companies.
- 2.. In situations which would pose serious threats to the safety of Fire Department personnel,

Operation at Fires:

While on fire ground, apparatus will be operated in accordance with Department SOP and manufacturer's recommendations in regard to spotting, positioning, checking wheels, etc.

Non-Emergency Driving:

Drivers of Fire Department vehicles shall obey all traffic laws when on non-emergency calls or returning to the station. All Fire Department vehicles, except when making an emergency run, shall leave and return to stations following the

line of traffic.

Drivers License:

Drivers of any Fire Department vehicle must have a valid Texas Drivers License on his/her person at all times and readily display such license when called upon to do so by any Peace Officer. In order to operate Fire Department equipment that has gross weight in excess of 26,000 lbs., personnel must secure exempt status

Courtesy:

Drivers of Fire Department vehicles shall observe and practice all the rules of courteous driving.

Traffic Accidents:

A traffic accident shall be defined as any and all occurrences in which damage is done to public and/or private property and involving Fire Department vehicular equipment. If traffic accident results in bodily injury or \$250.00 or more in property damage (as determined by the police or supervisor who investigates the accident), in addition to filing Fire Department injury report all applicable sections of City policy "Drug and/or Alcohol Testing of Applicants and Employees" shall be observed.

A. Major Traffic Accidents:

When a Fire Department vehicle is involved in a major traffic accident, the Officer in charge of the vehicle will immediately notify dispatcher and report the vehicle out-of-service, give the location and number of ambulances needed. The Officer will then cause the Duty Chief, and Fire marshal to be dispatched to the scene to conduct investigation. Fire Marshal will see that necessary forms are completed and necessary photos are taken. The vehicle and uninjured personnel shall remain at scene of the accident. Personnel shall render necessary first aid to the injured. The Officer in charge of the vehicle shall secure necessary information pertinent to making a full report and shall remain at the scene of the accident until dismissed by the Fire Department representative having authority.

B. Minor Traffic Accidents:

Should an accident result in any property damage or any personal injuries, it is necessary to complete the Texas Department of Public Safety Drivers Confidential Report of Motor Vehicle Accident.

C. Report of Traffic Accidents, and/or Damage to Vehicular Equipment:

The Officer of a Fire Department vehicle involved in any and all accidents or damage done to vehicle shall submit a full report on the City of Red Oak Supervisor's Accident and Injury Report.

1. The dollar value estimate of damage to the private vehicle, if applicable, shall be the amount as estimated by the investigating Police Officer.
2. The dollar value estimate of damage to the Fire Department equipment shall be left blank, Until professional estimates are obtained.
3. In the event the Driver is incapacitated and unable to complete the report, the Officer in charge of the equipment shall prepare the report and sign as "Officer in Charge." A statement will be taken from the Driver as soon as possible.
4. The Officer in charge of the vehicle involved in an accident shall forward, through channels, a full and complete written report regarding the accident or damage; stating what could have been done to prevent this accident and what action he/she has taken to prevent a reoccurrence of this type accident. This report will accompany the Equipment Accident Report and must be in the Fire Department office before the end of the shift on which the accident occurred.

D. Property damage caused by Fire Department vehicle:

Any damage to driveways, fences, septic tanks, or other property, caused by Fire Department vehicles will be reported to the Duty Chief, and Fire marshal. Investigation will be conducted by the Fire Marshal, and results sent to the Fire Chief.

E. Unreported Damage to all Red Oak Fire Department and City of Red Oak Property:

If damage to Fire Department equipment is discovered that has not been reported at the time of the incident, and no one acknowledges or accepts responsibility, the Company Officer will report to the Duty Chief. The Duty Chief and Fire Marshal will thoroughly investigate. Responsible party/parties identified by the investigation will be subject to disciplinary action. If responsible party/parties are not identified, Company Officers assigned to the involved piece of equipment for all three shifts will be held responsible.

Driver's Responsibility:

It shall be the responsibility of the Driver to operate his/her vehicle in such a manner as to arrive at destination safely and without incident. Again, to recklessly endanger life is counter to the express purpose of a life and safety oriented Fire Department and those disregarding safe driving practices shall be subject to disciplinary procedures.

