

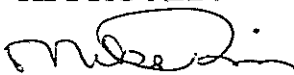
<b>SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</b>		
<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	<b>ARTICLE: II</b>	<b>SOP: 2110</b>
	<b>SECTION: 2100 SAFETY</b>	
	<b>SUBJECT: DRIVING SAFETY</b>	

**Purpose:** To provide a consistent procedures governing the operation of fire apparatus and vehicles.

**Scope:** To apply to personnel operating district owned vehicles/ apparatus. Shall also apply to personnel responding in their own personnel vehicles to emergencies or to the station as a result of an emergency incident.

**Procedure:**

1. Operator Responsibilities
  - A. California Vehicle Code mandates that any person operating firefighting equipment must have in their possession a valid driver license for the appropriate class of vehicle operated(B), or a valid restricted driver license for the appropriate class of vehicle for firefighting equipment.
    - 1) Appropriate commercial license for SVFPD is, "Class B" with air brake and tank endorsements. License must be accompanied by a valid medical examination certificate.
    - 2) Acceptable non-commercial drivers license for SVFPD is one that is restricted to operating firefighting equipment only and also must be accompanied by a valid medical examination certificate
  - B. Operators should be well-rested. *Under no circumstance*, are operators to drive any district vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug or medication that will impair the safe operation of the vehicle.
  - C. Operators must maintain a clear driving record and must be insurable by the district's insurance carrier.
  - D. All vehicles shall be operated consistent with the appropriate sections of the California Vehicle Code and any other applicable law or code.


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E. A pre-trip inspection (daily checkout) shall be performed by the operator to assure that all of the systems and safety equipment of the apparatus are in good working condition.

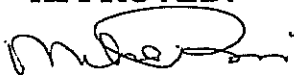
2. Code Three Driving (*Red Lights and Siren*)

- A. Operators responding to code three shall comply with all appropriate sections of the vehicle code.
- B. The posted speed limit shall be observed. *Under no circumstance* shall the apparatus exceed a speed considered safe for road or visibility conditions.
- C. Operators are to approach all intersections with caution and proceed carefully.
- D. Operators should be aware of oncoming vehicles turning in front of the apparatus at intersections.
- E. Apparatus shall come to a complete stop at intersections where a stop sign or red light is encountered. The operator may proceed only when the other drivers have yielded the right-of-way and it is safe to do so.
- F. When it is necessary to make a left hand turn in front of stopped vehicles, come to a complete stop and advance cautiously after the other driver has yielded the right-of-way.
- G. Apparatus should pass traffic on the left hand side. Extreme caution should be exercised when conditions dictate a deviance from passing on the left hand side is necessary.
- H. Avoid traveling in opposing traffic unless you are certain traffic is clear.
- I. Red lights and siren should only be utilized when responding to emergency incidents. All warning devices of the apparatus should be utilized to increase vehicle visibility to avoid accidents.

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3. Backing
  - A. The operator should reduce the occasion to back, if possible, by using one way traffic patterns or spotting the apparatus for forward exiting.
  - B. A spotter shall be used whenever possible. Clear communication (verbal and/or hand signals) is necessary between the driver and the spotter.
  - C. The ultimate responsibility for the apparatus lies with the driver. If unsure, the driver should get out to look at the backing area.
  - D. The spotter should be eight to ten feet behind the apparatus on the driver's side and maintaining eye contact with the driver. If the driver loses sight of the spotter, the apparatus should stop and wait until communication is reestablished.
  - E. If a spotter is not available, the operator should get out and survey the backing area. Consideration should be given to overhead and width clearance, soft shoulder and damage to roadways or driveways due to apparatus weight.
  
4. Personnel responding in private vehicles as a result of an emergency incident.
  - A. All personnel when responding in their private vehicle shall obey all traffic rules/ regulations and exercise safe prudent driving practices.
  - B. Personal vehicles used by employees to respond to either an incident or to a fire station due to an emergency incident shall be maintained in a reasonable safe mechanical condition.
  - C. No employee shall use "emergency lighting" in or on their personal vehicle.

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