



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> <h2>150.04</h2>	
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Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Administration	4/10/1995	N/A	N/A

SUBJECT: Vehicle Safety

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

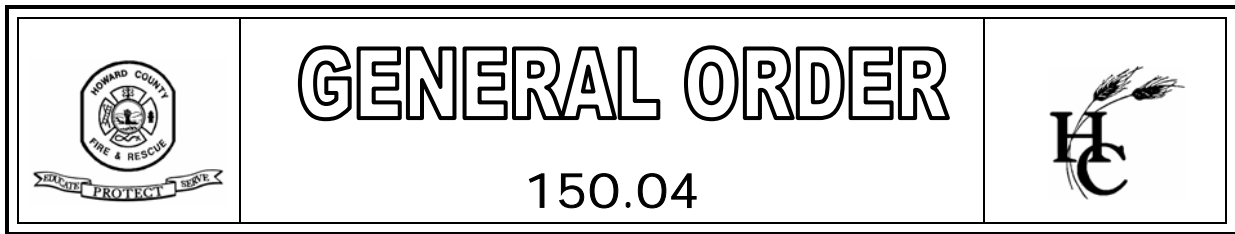
POLICY:

The operation of vehicles under emergency conditions is a privilege not a right, and this privilege should be exercised accordingly. The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) vehicles shall be operated in a safe manner at all times, to include response to an emergency incident. Safe operation of motor vehicles shall be in accordance with the Howard County Safety and Health Manual, NFPA 1500, and the Maryland Motor Vehicle Laws.

1 DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY

- 1.1 Drivers of DFRS vehicles shall possess a valid drivers license of appropriate class for the vehicle being operated, and shall carry the license with them at all times.
- 1.2 The driver shall be directly responsible for the safe operations of the vehicle at all times.
- 1.3 Vehicles shall be operated in compliance with all traffic laws.
- 1.4 Drivers shall not move vehicles until all personnel in the vehicle are seated and using appropriate seat belts.
- 1.5 Vehicle speed shall be reasonable and responsible for traffic, road and weather conditions.
- 1.6 Traffic control devices shall be observed until the driver is reasonably assured the right-of-way has been granted by other vehicles and pedestrians.
- 1.7 Vehicles shall not be backed up, until a person is assigned as a guide. The guide shall be at the rear of the vehicle and visible to the operator.
 - 1.7.1 When backing a vehicle where a guide is not practical or possible, the operator shall make a visual check to the rear of the vehicle prior to backing and shall exercise extreme caution. These situations may include:
 - 1.7.1.1 Vehicles operated by driver only, and no assistance is available.

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- 1.7.1.2 When ambulance crew is engaged in patient care and no other assistance is available.
- 1.7.1.3 When conditions exist that would place the guide in harms way.
- 1.8 During emergency response, drivers shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop for any of the following:
 - 1.8.1 when directed to stop by a police officer
 - 1.8.2 red traffic light
 - 1.8.3 stop sign
 - 1.8.4 blind intersections
 - 1.8.5 negative right-of-way intersections
 - 1.8.6 when the driver cannot account for all lanes of traffic
 - 1.8.7 when other intersection hazards are present
 - 1.8.8 when encountering a stopped school bus with flashing warning lights. After the driver comes to a complete stop, and is reasonably assured that all children are clear of the roadway, the emergency vehicle shall proceed at a very slow rate of speed.
 - 1.8.9 at any unprotected railroad crossings. Drivers shall use caution when crossing at protected railroad crossings.
- 1.9 Drivers shall not utilize engine, transmission, or driveline retarders when roadways are slippery and conditions exist which may cause loss of control when these devices are activated.

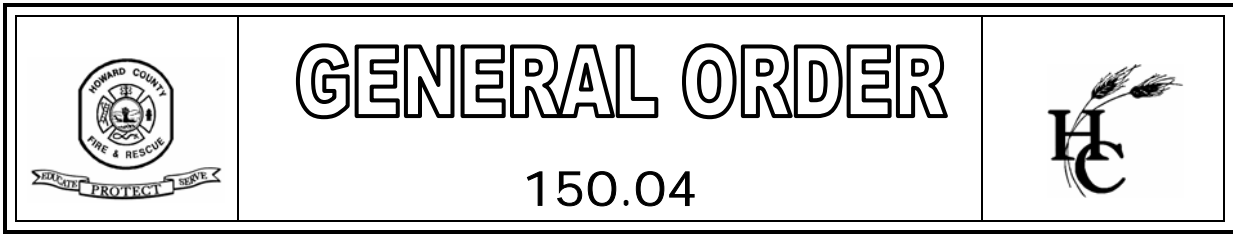
2 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 The officer is responsible for the actions of the driver. The officer shall inform the driver if he/she feels the vehicle is being operated in an unsafe manner and take any necessary corrective actions to alleviate the unsafe operations.
- 2.2 The officer shall instruct all personnel to stay seated and belted while the vehicle is in motion.

3 PERSONNEL RIDING IN DFRS VEHICLES

- 3.1 Seat belts shall be utilized in all vehicles at all times when vehicle is moving. The only exception shall be ambulance attendants actively performing patient care where use of a seat belt is not practical. However, attendants who are strictly monitoring a patient shall use the seat belts provided on the squad bench.
- 3.2 The number of personnel shall never exceed the number of seats and seat belts

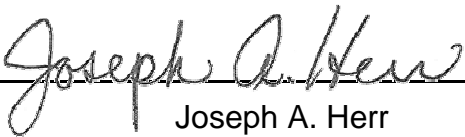
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available.

- 3.3 Personnel are not permitted to ride on the exterior of any vehicle, to include the cargo area of utility vehicles, other than as allowed in 3.3.1 and 3.3.2.
 - 3.3.1 Personnel may be permitted to ride in the cargo area of utility vehicles operating at an emergency scene, when operations are spread out over a large area. Vehicles shall not be operated over 10mph, and all personnel shall be seated on the floor of the vehicle.
 - 3.3.2 Hose loading operations shall be permitted on moving fire apparatus only when the following conditions are met:
 - 3.3.2.1 Vehicle speed shall be less than 10mph
 - 3.3.2.2 A responsible person is assigned as a safety observer. The safety observer shall not be involved in loading hose, have an unobstructed view of the hose loading operation, and be in visual and voice contact with the vehicle operator.
 - 3.3.2.3 Other traffic shall be diverted from the area or under the control of assigned traffic control persons.
 - 3.3.2.4 Approval of the unit OIC. It shall be his/her responsibility to ensure the operation can be accomplished safely. If there is any question as to the safety of the operation, the hose shall not be loaded on moving apparatus.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief