

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



GENERAL ORDER

300.03



Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Administration	02/19/1993	06/10/1995	N/A

SUBJECT: Bridges – Weight Restrictions

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

POLICY:

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services shall support the practice of crossing over public roadway weight restricted bridges and private bridges as outlined in the following procedure.

1 DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1 **Private Bridge:** Any bridge which is not an integral part of a dedicated State or County road.
- 1.2 **Public Bridge:** Any bridge which is an integral part of a dedicated State or County road.
- 1.3 **Restricted Bridge:** Any bridge which has been designated by either the State or County as being limited to a designated maximum weight, vehicle classification, or vehicle load.

2 The crossing of private bridges shall only be accomplished after the following items have been evaluated by the company officer or Incident Command:

- 2.1 Necessity to cross bridge
- 2.2 Structural stability of bridge

3 OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The restricted bridge shall only be crossed while **responding** to a reported structure fire, personal injury automobile accident or life threatening incident.
- 3.2 Cross in the center area of the bridge.
- 3.3 Maximum speed limit while crossing is 10 MPH.
- 3.4 No other vehicles shall be on the bridge, or attempting to cross the bridge, while

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crossing.

- 3.5 Every attempt to minimize the number and size of crossing apparatus should be exercised.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Herr".

Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief