



HR/HF

FFCC—Policy/SOG Program

Operations
Policy # 08-11

Safety—Seat Belt Use
Issued: 11/01/08

Subject: Seat belt use

Purpose: This policy describes the expected actions of personnel in regard to the use of seat belts.

Scope: This policy applies to all personnel of the Fire Department.

Policy

The driver of any Fire Department vehicle or apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an officer or acting officer, that officer or acting officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

Drivers shall not move fire department vehicles or apparatus until all persons are seated and secured with seat belts in approved riding positions.

All persons riding in fire department vehicles or apparatus shall be seated and secured by seat belts or safety harnesses at any time the vehicle is in motion. Riding on tail boards, side steps, running boards, or in any other exposed positions or standing while riding shall be specifically prohibited.

Authorized exceptions to the seat belt requirement:

Department members are exempt from wearing seat belts while actively performing emergency medical care while the vehicle is in motion, where requirements to be seated and restrained with seat belts would jeopardize patient care. The driver shall take extraordinary precaution in recognition of the additional danger that exists while driving with unrestrained member(s). All other persons in the vehicle shall be seated and restrained with seat belts in approved riding positions while the vehicle is in motion.

By the order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date:

References:

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition
- NFPA 1451, Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Safety Program, 2007 edition

Resources (*click on title to access resource*):

- [National Near Miss Reporting System—Seatbelt Report](#)
- [National Fire Service and EMS Seat Belt Pledge](#)
- [IAFC Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)