

<b>Rappahannock County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association</b>	<b>Number: SOG-401-1 (REVISED) Page 1 of 3</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Apparatus Driver Requirements</b>	<b>Effective Date: 11/18/2022</b>
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**PURPOSE:** To establish minimum requirements for all drivers of emergency vehicles operating under volunteer fire and rescue companies in Rappahannock County, Virginia.

**BACKGROUND:** Responding to emergency incidents does not in any manner reduce the responsibility to operate vehicles safely. While prompt response to emergency incidents is an organizational priority, safety is always a higher priority. The responding units must arrive safely at the location where they are needed before they can deliver the required services. Unsafe operation of an emergency vehicle creates an unacceptable risk to fire and rescue members, to the public, and to the individuals who are in need of assistance.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. All Drivers / Operators must comply at all times with these general requirements:
  - a. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age to be released as an emergency Driver/Operator on all apparatus. However, trainees between 18 and 21 may only be used if an emergency situation occurs and there is not a certified operator present at that time, and the trainee has been trained sufficiently and approved by the officer in charge to act in this capacity.
  - b. Must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years old to start the training process for Ambulance/Brush/Utility Drivers/Operator Release in a nonemergency role. Those under the age of eighteen (18) are not allowed to drive emergency vehicles under any circumstances.
  - c. Maintain a valid driver's license.
  - d. Have successfully completed an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) in the appropriate class for the vehicle being driven. The EVOC course must be provided by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Emergency Operators Course, or for EMS vehicles any other courses approved by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS).
  - e. Completion of a driver / operator release program as specified by their respective volunteer Company.
  - f. Demonstrate ability to conduct basic vehicle maintenance (check tire pressure, fluid levels, belts, etc.).
  - g. Complete and submit to their Chief or designee a medical statement that identifies any issues that might impair driving ability, such as the VFIS Annual Medical Statement of Personnel. This should be updated as needed or requested by their Chief.
  - h. Have a Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles driver's history report completed upon application and updated at least annually thereafter. This report should reflect not more than two (2) Class B and no Class A violations in the previous three years.

**TRAINING:**

2. Drivers selected to start a driver training program may drive an emergency vehicle but shall be limited to training and non-emergency activities.

3. Detailed training records shall be kept on all trainees during their training period. The training records should include vehicle check out, hands-on driving time, and unit familiarization.
4. All drivers must have four (4) hours of driving time and be familiar with the unit they will testing on before attending an EVOC class.

**RELEASE REQUIREMENTS:**

5. The following table provides standard release minimum requirements for different emergency vehicles. Release decisions are based on individual performance and may have additional requirements.

	ATV or other trailored vehicle	Utility	Ambulance	Brush Truck	Engine/Tanker/Truck
Supervised Driving Time (hours)	4	4	4 (Release in one can count for either)		10
Respond as driver a minimum of X times to emergency incidents		1	2	2	2
Be familiar with location of hospitals			X		
Pump familiarization	X			X	
Certification in VDFP Basic Pump Operator and/or Driver Pump Operator					X
Complete Operational Scenarios or Tests as determined by department					X

**VIOLATIONS:**

6. All moving violations convictions within and outside Virginia by drivers/operators must be reported to their Chief within 24 hours of receipt of violation regardless of the state where an infraction occurred or changes to his or her operator's or driver's license status.
7. Convictions will result in:
  - a. Conviction of a Class A moving violation will result in a suspension of driving privileges for a period of eighteen (18) months. Additionally, these individuals are required to attend an approved driver improvement program, or equivalent training, and be re-released to operate emergency vehicles. Class A moving violations are any violation that normally receives a license suspension from the Department of Motor Vehicles that issued the license.
  - b. Conviction of a combination of two (2) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will result in a written warning letter or other action as determined by the Chief Operational Officer. Class B violations are any moving violation or point-carrying violation not considered a Class A violation. Speeding, unlawful lane change, and traveling too fast for conditions are all examples of Class B violations.

- c. Conviction of a combination of three (3) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will result in a ninety (90) day suspension from driving. In addition, the same individual would be required to complete an approved driver improvement program and be re-released to operate emergency vehicles.

**ACCIDENTS:**

8. All accidents while operating emergency vehicles shall be reported to their Chief for review and potential action (i.e., probation or suspension of driving privileges).

**AUTHORITY TO DEVIATE FROM THIS POLICY:**

9. Authority to deviate from this policy and the resulting accountability for that deviation rests solely with each Company's Chief.

**OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES:**

SOG-204: Vehicle & Traffic Safety

SOG-206 Anti-Substance Abuse Policy