

5. Responding to Incident

5.1 General Responsibilities

5.1.1 Being an apparatus driver is an extremely important job that can only be obtained by a firefighter applying him/herself and receiving the most training that is available to each. Any active firefighter, with a valid drivers license, firefighter 1 certified, CEVO certified, can be a driver after the proper training has been completed. In order to drive front line apparatus to emergency calls firefighters must be at least 21 years of age and have attended a recognized academy Pump Operator class. Firefighters under the age of 21 who meet these requirements are permitted to begin training on front line apparatus with approval of the Chief.

5.1.2 Being a driver is considered a specialized job and has many procedures that have to be followed. This chapter will go in depth and explain the many operations that must be followed.

5.2 Qualifications

5.2.1 Prior to any firefighter receiving assignment as an apparatus driver, he/she must complete an approved driver education class. Currently, this company only recognizes, National Safety Council, Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO).

5.2.2 Driver selection will start with the recommendation of the Chief. The Chief will approve a firefighter to be a driver after he/she has shown experience, knowledge and driving capability.

5.2.3 After the firefighter has been selected as a driver, he/she will learn the capabilities of the apparatus that he/she may be driving. He/She will learn the several types, the capacities of each and all the equipment which is stored on the apparatus.

5.2.4 After a firefighter has been approved to be a driver, he/she must attend an approved pump operator class and emergency vehicle operating class at an approved fire academy. There, the driver will learn fire hydraulics and water flow.

5.2.5 A firefighter will not be fully cleared until he/she has shown proficiency in all operations and can show that they have a complete knowledge of all equipment carried on the apparatus.

5.3 Driver Training

5.3.1 In house driver training will consist of rules of the road, based on the New Jersey Motor Vehicle and Traffic Statutes Title 39, the Wall Township Street Directory, and an operation obstacle course.

5.3.2 Drivers will show proficiency in the use of the mobile radio and follow SOG Chapter #14-Communication.

5.3.3 It will be stressed that at **NO** time shall a driver operate any apparatus after consuming alcoholic beverages. It is a risk to the individual firefighter, the public and brother firefighters. Even the slightest amount of alcohol will hamper the judgment of any person.

5.4 Crew Assignments

5.4.1 No apparatus will respond without the proper staffing amounts. Each engine shall have a minimum of 3 (three) firefighters and 1 (one) driver. The Ladder/Tower shall have a minimum of 3 (three) firefighters and 1 (one) driver. Junior members will not count when making this assessment. The rescue truck shall have the appropriate number of certified personnel, depending on the incident response. When responding to an extrication, a minimum of 3 (three) certified firefighters and 1 (one) driver. The brush truck shall have a minimum of 2 (two) firefighters and 1 (one) driver.

5.4.2 When an engine is responding to an incident, crew assignment tasks shall conform with SOG Chapter #15. When responding to a structure fire in Wall Fire District #3, the first due engine shall not always assume the assignment of establishing a primary supply line to the scene. This assignment shall be confirmed with the IC prior to engine commitment. When an engine is second due, the apparatus officer shall receive explicit commands from the IC regarding establishing a second or third supply line.

5.4.3 When the rescue truck is responding to an incident, crew assignment tasks shall conform with SOG Chapter #15. When responding to any type of specialized rescue, only certified firefighters shall ride on the apparatus.

5.4.4 When the brush truck is responding to an incident, crew assignment tasks shall conform with SOG Chapter #15. When responding, Forest Fire Certified firefighters will have seniority when boarding this apparatus.

5.5 Driver Checklist

5.5.1 When responding to an incident, it is imperative that the apparatus driver and officer monitor the radio for incident updates and assignments. While enroute to the scene of any incident, the officer shall use the Street Directory and hydrant map for incident location and water supply location.

5.5.2 Upon arrival on scene, it is the drivers responsibility to inventory all tools which are removed from the apparatus. The crew of the apparatus shall have first selection of any tools on that apparatus. Upon completion of the incident, the driver and officer shall replace the equipment used to its proper location.

5.5.3 Under no circumstances is an apparatus driver to leave the apparatus unsupervised while it is in operation or the engine is running. Wheel chocks MUST be used while the apparatus is running/operating at an incident.

5.5.4 While staging at incidents in cold weather, the operator must engage the pump, re-circulation, to ensure that the water in the apparatus does not freeze. This will be done at all incidents when the outside temperature is at or below freezing temperature.

5.6 Regulations

5.6.1 In the event that the apparatus is involved in a motor vehicle accident during a response to an emergency incident, the IC and Central Dispatch must be notified immediately. Failure to report a motor vehicle accident to Central Dispatch will result in the drivers motor vehicle operators license being assessed points for failure to report the accident and possible incarceration. Upon the absence of the Fire Chief, he/she, will be notified immediately upon termination of the incident.

5.6.2 In the event that the apparatus is involved in a motor vehicle accident when not being used for an emergency incident, Central Dispatch will be notified immediately. The driver will then notify the Fire Chief after the Police Department has concluded their on-scene investigation.

5.6.3 If a driver fails to follow any of the procedures set in this chapter, it will result in the suspension of his/her apparatus driving privilege. Upon the second suspension of the firefighters apparatus driving privilege, he/she will be removed permanently from driver status and in extreme circumstances from the Company.

5.6.4 All firefighters that are on the Driver's List will have their New Jersey Driver License history inspected once a year by the apparatus Insurance Carrier for the Board of Fire Commissioners. This inspection will determine the eligibility of your apparatus driving status. The Insurance Carrier reserves the right to suspend any firefighter from driving Wall Fire District No. 3 apparatus.

11/13 JS