CARVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section 3.10 – Driving Policy **June 15, 2013**

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to establish procedures for safe driving of Carver Fire Department apparatus

1.1 SCOPE

This guideline includes the movement of apparatus, whether routine or responding to an incident

1.2 POLICY

01. A. Only those firefighters who have a valid Massachusetts driver's license and are either members of a Company or are specifically approved by the Captain or Lieutenant of a Station may drive apparatus.

02. The apparatus driver's sole responsibility will be the safe driving of the equipment. The front seat passenger shall operate all emergency equipment as well as the continuous monitoring of traffic conditions and communicating with the driver.

03. The driver shall be primarily concerned with safely driving the apparatus. He/she should not operate sirens, air horns, or radio. He is to continually monitor driving conditions and listen for instructions. The driver of the apparatus shall be the initial pump operator

04. The right side cab seat is reserved for a Company Officer or senior Firefighter at the time of the response. Those lower in rank or seniority shall vacate the seat if requested provided it does not unreasonably compromise response time.

05. The person riding in the right front seat shall be responsible for closing the overhead station door as soon as the truck has exited the station.

06. Seat belts, where provided, should be worn by all seated firefighters enroute and returning from all mobile apparatus assignments. Exceptions to this rule are members who are in a survival suit and members in the process of putting protective clothing or SCBA on. All Firefighters in the cab and jump seats shall remain seated with seat belts in use until the apparatus comes to a complete stop.

07. Any apparatus performing an emergency response shall have all emergency warning lights activated during the response. The siren and or air horns shall be utilized whenever necessary to make the presence of the emergency vehicle known to the other drivers. Emergency lights and sirens are only a request for other vehicles and pedestrians to give way. Normal rules of the road, speed limits, traveling within marked lanes, proceeding through intersections, shall not be deviated from unless it is safe, prudent and legal to do so.

08. Apparatus performing an emergency response shall utilize Opticom® transmitters when responding through traffic lights. The transmitters should be activated when the traffic lights are in sight to give enough time for activation. Apparatus drivers shall utilize extreme caution when approaching signalized intersections, and, at all times slow to speeds of not more than 10 mph. In the case where your vision is blinded or diminished, apparatus drivers shall make a complete stop even though the Opticom® may have given you the green light. Apparatus drivers shall keep in mind that the Opticom® system does not provide a "magic pathway" for an emergency vehicle to safely speed through. It is a tool, just as the emergency lights and siren. See **SOG 3.13 Opticom Traffic Advisor**

09. Any time a Carver Fire Department apparatus is backing, a ground guide should be provided. The person in the right front seat will insure that a ground guide is provided. No other personnel should exit the apparatus until the parking brake has been applied. If there is no one available to be a ground guide, the driver should exercise due caution while backing. In areas with dim lighting, rear spotlights will be utilized for lighting the ground behind the apparatus.

10. The ground guide should have a hand held radio in possession if available, to insure communications with the apparatus operator.

11. When backing the apparatus into the station the operator must straighten the apparatus before entering the station as to avoid backing in at an angle.

12. ***On and after July 17, 1996 no one shall ride the rear step of any apparatus.***

13. During hose packing operations, tailboard work positions are permissible if done under the direction of a ground guide in contact with the vehicle's operator.

14. If an apparatus is involved an any accident in which direct contact is made with another object, (excepting brush breaking operations) both the driver and Officer shall file a written report describing the accident immediately upon return to quarters.

15. No person other than a member of the Carver Fire Department. shall be permitted to ride on the apparatus, except as permitted by the Chief or Deputy Chief.