

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline Apparatus Operator Driver Training

Objective:

To provide a clear understanding of driving responsibilities and the pathway for members who are interested in becoming driver / operators for Falmouth Fire-EMS.

General Information: Falmouth Fire-EMS driver / operator training plan shall meet the requirements of Maine Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS). Only members approved to operate apparatus may operate department vehicles. All members must take the EVOC or AVOC Driver Training Course before they can operate a department-owned vehicle.

Guidelines:

- 1.) The Chief will select and approve all driver / operators for the department.
- 2.) All operators must be 18 years old and have a current valid drivers' license.
- 3.) All operators must have documentation of a completed EVOC or AVOC driving course on file at the department.
- 4.) All current operators shall notify the Chief of the Department, within 48 hours, of any traffic violations, on or off duty.
- 5.) A member will need to display an ability to remain calm under pressure and follow instructions.
- 6.) To begin driver training a member must have the Approval to Train form completed and signed off by the company officers and Fire Chief.
- 7.) A member must have driving instruction in each unit they are expected to operate and complete driver training skill sheets on apparatus before they are approved to operate them. Training must be given by an approved operator of the apparatus the member is training on.
- 8.) Once the skill sheets are completed the Fire Chief will issue a practical test. The Fire Chief or designee will initiate the practical exam which will include a road test and demonstration of the ability to operate all tools on the apparatus. Once the member completes a successful test, the Fire Chief will be person who will certify a member to drive. Certification will be in the form of a completion certificate. The certificate will be placed in each driver's training file.
- 9.) Members must always use a spotter before backing a vehicle, when available.
- 10.) Each member will be required to have general knowledge of equipment and its operation.

- 11.) Drivers are responsible for all equipment on the unit they are driving.
- 12.) All drivers are required to follow the Falmouth Fire-EMS Infection Control Policy.
- 13.) Members need to complete the driving skill sheet for each apparatus. Once completed, a copy of the checklist will be placed in each driver's training file.
- 14.) Members will wear seatbelts while driving or riding in department-owned apparatus.
- 15.) All operators will have an annual license check performed by the Fire Chief, or designee.
- 16.) All operators will complete annual Continuing Education process as directed by the Fire Chief.
- 17.) Every three years all operators shall have a practical evaluation performed by an officer to meet the requirements of Maine BLS.
- 18.) All maintenance of department-owner apparatus will be performed by Falmouth Public Works or an approved vendor.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.