

Madison County Department of Emergency Medical Services

Standard Operating Guideline



Title	Vehicles Operations
Number	004
Adoption Date	1/1/07
Revision Date	
Approved by	Lewis Jenkins, EMS Director



Purpose:

To provide a guideline for the day to day vehicle operations.

Policy:

All career personnel will be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age and must have successfully completed the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC) prior to operating any county or volunteer owned emergency vehicle and have a current valid Virginia drivers license.

The following criteria apply to all vehicle operations:

1. All personnel when responding to or returning from emergency calls, as well as during non emergency operations shall wear seat belts.
2. Whenever possible, seat belts will be worn by patient attendants while en route to the hospital.
3. Drivers will always travel with due regard.
4. When on emergency response with emergency lights, sirens, and horns operating, drivers will slow their vehicles as needed in order to be able to come to a full and complete stop if necessary on approaching red lights, stop signs, and yield signs, to ensure that all traffic has yielded the right of way to the emergency vehicle, prior to proceeding, with due regard to persons and property, through the intersection. Follow Virginia Office of EMS Code 12 VAC 5-31-1150 and Virginia Code 46.2-920.
5. When personnel are riding the front passenger seat they are responsible for advising the driver of traffic conditions on the right of the vehicle; however, the driver is still ultimately responsible for the overall operation of the vehicle.
6. While the vehicle is responding to emergency calls, the front seat passenger will operate the radio and sirens. This will ensure that the driver will not have to divert his/her attention from traffic conditions to the operation of the sirens or air horns. The only exception to this rule is if a response vehicle is staffed with only one person.
7. Sirens will be used on all emergencies when it is necessary to warn pedestrians and/or to clear traffic. If sirens are used, warning lights must also be used. When aboard an ambulance, the Attendant in Charge (AIC) will make the decision as to whether or not the siren should be used

during a transport. The driver will exercise extra care if minimal siren is used out of concern for the patient being transported. Under no circumstances are you to use the opticom light unless you are in an emergency mode with all emergency lights on.

8. There will be NO smoking permitted at any time in County or volunteer owned and operated emergency vehicles.
9. Interior driving and patient compartments will be cleaned at the beginning of each shift and disinfection will be done after each response, if needed..
10. Exteriors of vehicles will be kept in clean, presentable condition. Vehicles will be cleaned at the beginning of each shift, if needed.
11. Upon inspection of the vehicles at the start of shift: If damage to a vehicle is noted, it should be brought to the EMS Director or designee's attention **immediately**, if not available notify supervisor on-duty and fill out an incident report detailing your findings. If vehicle is unsafe to drive, employees are authorized to switch to another unit and immediately notify the EMS Duty Officer.
12. When in service on the road (not responding to an emergency call or to the hospital) personnel will stop and offer assistance to stranded motorists in Madison County only. Notify communications center with necessary information for law enforcement support.
13. After Shift Response- Duty crew will only run a call after their assigned shift, if paged for mutual aid by the volunteers. It will be up to the career EMS Duty Officer or EMS Director if the crew will run the call.