

Bethel Fire Department

General Safety Rules for Vehicle including Passengers - SOG

D-004

Purpose and Policy

In order to further insure safe operations in this department, the following additional rules for safe operation of vehicles in our fleet. While all standard rules of conduct apply in all vehicles at all times, certain additional conduct by passengers must be required.

Regulations

1. No person(s) shall be permitted to ride on a tailboard or anywhere else outside the vehicle during normal or emergency vehicle operations except during hose loading operations when conducted as specified in the hose loading policy when approved by the officer in charge.
2. Other Emergency Services personnel may ride on a Town of Bethel Fire Department apparatus in an official capacity (e.g. emergency incident, training, mutual aid, fire watch, etc.).
3. All person(s) shall be seated and belted before the vehicle is placed in motion. Members actively performing necessary emergency medical care while the vehicle is in motion should be secured to the vehicle by a seat belt or safety harness designed for such use, consistent with the effective provision of such care.
4. Releasing seatbelts while the vehicle is in motion should not be permitted for any reason, including donning gear. This should be done before boarding or after arrival on scene. SCBA may be donned while seated in approved seats with center mounted SCBA brackets.
5. All vehicles should be inspected, repacked, fueled re-supplied immediately after use or repair to identify and correct any unsafe conditions and to ensure unit is fully back in service.
6. Person(s) other than members of this department should not be permitted to ride on vehicles except for patients in EMS vehicles and as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Chief Officer or OIC.
7. All Town of Bethel Fire Department Apparatus shall be equipped with a Vermont Department of Motor Vehicle Individual Light Permit.
8. Per 23 VSA, §1015, Authorized Emergency Vehicles, the driver of an authorized vehicle, when responding to an emergency scene, but not returning from, may exceed the posted speed limit. The exemptions granted to an authorized motor vehicle apply only when the vehicle has an approved Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Light Permit and is making use of both audible and visual signals.
9. The driver of an authorized motor vehicle shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway at all times. Lights and sirens only mean you are requesting the right-of-way.

10. On all fire apparatus, wheel chocks should be put into place before advancing the throttle for pump operations or, on EMS vehicles, before advancing throttle for high idle.
11. On arrival on an emergency scene, only necessary vehicle warning lights should be left on. Headlights should be turned off except where used to supply additional scene lighting.
12. Drivers should not wear fire or 'Bunker' gear while driving except that they can and should wear a helmet appropriate for driving and approved by the safety officer. Apparel for the driver should be appropriate to guard against the driver's motion from being impeded or impaired.
13. At no time will any member operate any departmental vehicle after having consumed any amount of alcohol or any drug, including prescription medications that will inhibit the driver in the safe operation of the vehicle; so doing can and may result in immediate dismissal from the department, or other disciplinary action as the chief deems appropriate. This is a not a warned infraction.
14. At any time, any vehicle is placed in reverse and backed, a ground guide is required to provide and insure a safe backing procedure.
15. All fire apparatus shall be inspected and checked for operational readiness following each incident, training, and during weekly/ monthly fire apparatus and equipment inspection work detail.

Final Statement

The purpose of this SOG is to detail the responsibilities the Fire Department has for the safe use of emergency vehicles to accomplish the needed tasks. These regulations, this SOG, will be augmented by training for vehicle operations and the use of response procedures that is designed to reduce accidents and not cause additional issues while responding. This will fall under an SOG found under training guidelines.

Approved: _____
Fire Chief

Date: _____