

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Reference Number: IVN10-0002	Revises Previous Effective Date:
Subject: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH/DRIVERS OF VEHICLES		NEW
Authority: WETHERINGTON/HODGE	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Page 1 of 3

I. POLICY:

This standard applies to all Firefighters who drive or operate a motorized vehicle owned or used by the Department. It was promulgated to:

- A. Establish minimum standards for Firefighters who are allowed to drive or operate a motorized vehicle.
- B. Establish minimum safety regulations for the operation of a motorized vehicle.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All Department of Corrections Certified Firefighters in State and County Fire Departments.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

NFPA 1500 and 1002

IV. DEFINITIONS:

NONE

V. ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. (General)

- 1. Driver's license:
 - a. All fire apparatus drivers shall have a valid inmate driver's license that is appropriate for

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the types of vehicles that they are allowed to operate.

2. For the purposes of this standard, motorized vehicles shall be divided into two categories: Category one and Category Two.
 - a. Category One vehicles are those vehicles used primarily for fire suppression purposes and that have a gross vehicle weight (gvw) that exceeds 11,000 lbs.
 - b. Category Two vehicles are those vehicles that have a gvw of 11,000 lbs. or less and are primarily used for support services.
3. No Firefighter shall be allowed to drive or operate a Category One vehicle unless he has successfully completed the Department's driver training program or is a student driver under the supervision of a qualified driver.
4. All vehicles shall be operated in a safe and prudent manner, and all drivers shall comply with all traffic laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Department.
5. No driver shall move a vehicle until all persons in it are in an approved riding position and are properly secured.
6. Drivers responding to emergencies shall comply with the provisions of SOP IVN10-0003, Emergency Response.
7. A driver shall **not** back a vehicle unless his/her view is clear and unobstructed. Apparatus shall not be backed unless there is at least one spotter to the rear of the apparatus to assist in the operation.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Drivers shall be directly responsible for the safe and prudent operation of their vehicles in all situations.

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2. When a driver is under the direct supervision of a Station Chief, the Station Chief shall be responsible for the actions of the driver.
3. The Station Chief shall monitor the status of all the Firefighters of the Department to ensure that all those who drive and operate vehicles have had the proper training, possess valid driver's licenses, and have had a defensive driving course.
4. Drivers shall be responsible for ensuring that all of their vehicles' safety equipment is functioning properly and that their vehicles are safe to drive prior to operating them.

C. ACCIDENTS

1. The Station Chief shall immediately notify his supervisor and the appropriate law enforcement agency if he is involved in an accident. All reports and information concerning the accident shall be forwarded to the Fleet Management Director.
2. The Station Chief shall notify the Fire Services Manager whenever an accident involves an injury, fatality, or damage to a vehicle.