


SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Safety	S.O.P: 104.15
	SUBJECT: Seatbelts	PAGE: 1 of 2
	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012
		Revision Date:

Purpose:

To establish a standard to provide maximum protection for all SFD personnel while riding in or operating fire apparatus, staff cars and any other department vehicles.

Scope:

This operating procedure shall apply to any and all F.D. personnel operating in any and all capacities of their duties in the day-to-day activities & emergency operations. To assure the safety of all personnel, all drivers and passengers in all vehicles shall wear seat belts owned, leased or rented by this department. This also applies to the use of privately owned or other vehicles used on duty within the scope of their Fire Department duties and responsibilities.

Responsibility:

Responding to an emergency incident does not in any manner reduce the responsibility to operate vehicles safely. While prompt response to emergency incidents is an organizational priority, safety is always a higher priority. The responding units must arrive safely at the location where they are needed before they can deliver the required services. Unsafe operation of an emergency vehicle creates an unacceptable risk for Fire Dept. personnel, to the public and to the individuals who are in need of assistance.

It shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief and the Training Staff to assure that all units/personnel under their command are familiar with and adhere to this operating procedure.

DRIVER responsibility – The driver of a SFD vehicle is responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle at all times, including compliance with all traffic laws as well as this departments polices and procedures.

OFFICER responsibility – The Officer or Acting Officer is responsible for supervising the driver and all other assigned personnel; this includes assuring that the driver complies with all the traffic laws as well as all F.D. polices and procedures.


MEMBER responsibilities – All SFD members are required to comply with all safety policies and procedures while driving, operating, riding, or performing and function the involves a SFD vehicle.

NOTE: The Company Officer or the member shall assist the driver by operating the radios and conducting other activities such as the siren, horn, etc., the driver shall focus their attention on the safe operation of the vehicle.

General:

1. According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2003 there were an estimated 15,900 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles while responding to or returning from incidents. These collisions resulted in 850 firefighter injuries. In the past six years the second leading cause of firefighter deaths was vehicle collisions.
2. According to the United States Fire Administration, 20-25% of all firefighter fatalities since 1984 have been from this type of incident.
3. Improving seat belt usage is the single most effective strategy the Fire Service can embrace in reducing injury and death when a motor vehicle incident occurs.

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Statutes & Standards:

Kentucky Law governs the usage of seat belts.

NFPA Standard for Occupational Health & Safety Programs also addresses the need for seat belts.

- NFPA 1500 section 6.2.5: “drivers shall not move fire apparatus until all Persons’ on the vehicle are seated and secured with seat belt.”

- NFPA 1500 section 6.3.2: “seat belts shall not be released or loosened for any purpose while the vehicle is in motion”

Procedure:

1. It is mandatory that all SFD personnel use the seat belt installed by the manufacturer properly and securely fastened when operating or riding in any vehicle so equipped while on duty.
2. No person shall modify, remove, deactivate or otherwise tamper with the vehicles seatbelts except the Fire Department Mechanic.
3. Damaged, malfunctioning or inoperable seat belts shall be immediately reported to the Chief by using the Work Request form, and prompt actions shall be taken to repair or replace the equipment.
4. No person shall operate a SFD vehicle in which the driver’s seat belt is inoperable.
5. No person shall stand or don personnel protective equipment (PPE) while the vehicle or apparatus is in motion.
6. The driver/operator shall not move the apparatus or vehicle until all personnel are properly in a seat belt.
7. When responding to emergency incidents, all SFD members are required to have PPE donned prior to entering/boarding the apparatus. This does not include SCBA.
8. Steps
 - a. Don PPE (appropriate for the response)
 - b. Board apparatus
 - c. Fasten seat belt
 - d. Arrive at scene of destination
 - e. Unfasten seat belt
 - f. Don SCBA (as appropriate for the response)
 - g. Exit the apparatus

BENEFIT – In addition to reducing firefighter injuries or death, this procedure allows time for a more thorough size up of life hazards, extent and location of the fire and the development of strategies and tactics.

9. If an alarm is received while the apparatus is in service on the air in a non-emergency role, all personnel shall don their PPE prior to responding to or upon arrival at the scene of the incident. At no time shall any member unbuckle or loosen their seat belt to don PPE while the vehicle is in motion.

EXCEPTION – Apparatus drivers and drivers of staff sedan/SUV type vehicles shall wear the PPE/clothing that is appropriate for the response, their operation as a driver and the safe function of their duties.