



Health  
& Safety

## Children & Emergency Vehicles

### RULES FOR THE ROAD

**V**FIS receives numerous inquiries regarding our guidelines for children riding or sitting on emergency vehicles. Fire trucks and ambulances are exciting, and children are easily attracted to them. Your organization may even use these vehicles as educational tools.

Typical scenarios include:

- ✓ Children riding emergency vehicles during parades
- ✓ Children sitting on or in emergency vehicles at a demonstration
- ✓ Children sitting on or in emergency vehicles on standby at an event
- ✓ Children being given rides on or in emergency vehicles as entertainment

With this in mind, we suggest the following guidelines to control these situations:

- No children should ride on or in an emergency vehicle in an emergency situation.
- Children should not be allowed to ride on the tailboard, hose bed, hood or patient compartment of an emergency vehicle during parades or entertainment rides.
- Any children riding in the apparatus during a parade or for entertainment purposes should be inside the cab of the vehicle, seated with the seat belt fastened.
- Emergency service organizations that use the vehicles for parades should have

a standby vehicle on-line to respond to any emergency situations,

- Under no circumstances should children (junior firefighters should have their own guidelines) be allowed to stay in a vehicle while it responds to an emergency call. If the vehicle is needed for response, the children should leave it prior to any emergency response.
- Children should not be in or on vehicles that are on duty.
- Children that are in or on vehicles that are static and being used in demonstrations should be closely monitored.
- Emergency services organizations should limit the number of children permitted on or in the vehicle to that which can be safely monitored and controlled. \*

*We hope that your organization does use its emergency vehicles to educate children. But when it comes to riding in them, let's keep these future firefighters and EMTs as safe as we do our responders.*

Any products or services featured in this publication other than those provided by VFIS, should in no way be interpreted as an endorsement by VFIS.

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Organization

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# Parade Season Prep

Everyone in the community and in the emergency services enjoys being involved in Spring and Summer parades. It's a great time for the emergency service organization to show off its apparatus, equipment, and personnel to the public. The impression made by participating in the parade can have a lasting effect on how your community receives your request for help in the future.

Getting ready for the parade entails more than just cleaning and shining the apparatus and having the parade uniforms cleaned and pressed. Let's look at some ideas that should be considered by your organization. These guidelines will help ensure that your resources, as well as the public's, are protected.

Do you have a contingency plan in place? Your organization will have an important piece of equipment plus personnel resources away from your community for an extended period of time. How will the organization compensate for those resources in the event of an emergency in your community?

Consider some of these guidelines:

- Never leave your community with inadequate equipment or resources to respond to the average emergency incident in your community.
- Take the apparatus that will be attending the parade out of service.
- Have a stand-by

crew scheduled or available to respond to an emergency in your community while the apparatus is out of service.

Below are suggestions for the parade season. Remember, have fun, be proud of your equipment and organization and make a good impression on your public. 🌟



## Personnel Safety Guidelines:

- ✓ No personnel should ever be allowed to ride on the back of the apparatus or on the hose bed before, during, or after the parade. All personnel should be seated and belted during these times.
- ✓ If alcoholic refreshments will be available to the participants after the parade, make sure you designate a qualified driver for the return trip.
- ✓ Do not allow any of the parade participants who have consumed alcohol to respond to an emergency.

## Public Safety Guidelines:

- ✓ Have some of your personnel walk alongside of the apparatus during the parade to ensure that children and adults do not get too close.
- ✓ If handing out either candy or other items, have the personnel walking hand it out. Do not throw candy from the apparatus during the parade.
- ✓ If you must leave the parade to respond to an emergency, do it carefully and safely. Remember, the public is watching how you perform.

## Fire Hose Update

In the last edition of the VFIS News, we noted that fire departments need to make a daily habit of securing equipment on fire apparatus, referencing the tragic incident in Coraopolis, PA where a fire hose unraveled from a fire apparatus and struck two 10-year old girls, killing one and injuring the other. Fire officials at the Annville Fire Department (PA) are proactively responding to this incident and have installed cargo netting to keep their hose and other equipment secured. This patent pending netting safely secures fire hose and other equipment. For additional details, contact Rick Patrick at [rpatrik@vfis.com](mailto:rpatrik@vfis.com).



Courtesy of Richard Patrick

## First Responder Institute Offers Grant Program

The First Responder Institute (FRI) is accepting grant applications from fire departments in the United States. The grants will enhance the safety of communities through the purchase of life-saving equipment. The national grant program was created in 2003 by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare.

U.S. fire departments can apply for grants, ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000. There is no deadline for applications. Every quarter, the FRI board of directors will review the applications and determine who will be funded. The grant application can be filled out online at the FRI website. For more information, and to download the grant application, visit <http://www.firstresponder.org>.

More News You Can Use on back page...





## Georgetown Fire Department Ride Along Program (Minor)

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT, I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_,  
the legal parent and/or guardian of and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_,  
a minor, (hereinafter referred to as "Releasor"), for and in consideration of the privilege of riding  
as a guest and voluntary observer in a fire vehicle of the City of Georgetown and recognizing  
that fire activity involves certain inherent dangers, do hereby agree to assume all risks attendant  
to such activity, including, but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents on either public or private  
property, and do for myself, for and with my heirs, hereby agree to waive all claims against and  
release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the CITY OF GEORGETOWN, all of its officers,  
employees, agents and representatives, (hereinafter referred to as the CITY) in both their pub-  
lic and private capacities from and against any and all liability, claims, suits, losses, damages  
and causes of action, including all expenses of litigation and/or settlement for death, injury to,  
or death of any person, or for loss of, damage to, or loss of use of any property arising out of  
or in connection with riding as a guest in a fire vehicle. **SUCH INDEMNITY SHALL APPLY  
REGARDLESS OF CAUSE OR OF ANY FAULT OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CITY. IT IS THE  
EXPRESS INTENTION OF THE PARTIES HERETO, BOTH RELEASOR, AND THE CITY,  
THAT THE INDEMNITY PROVIDED FOR IN THIS PARAGRAPH IS INDEMNITY BY THE RE-  
LEASOR TO INDEMNIFY AND PROTECT THE CITY, FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE  
CITY'S OWN NEGLIGENCE, WHETHER THAT NEGLIGENCE IS THE SOLE OR CONCUR-  
RING CAUSE OF ANY INJURY, DEATH, OR DAMAGE.**

In the event RELEASOR is injured as a result of his or her participation as a guest rider, and  
it becomes necessary that he or she receive medical treatment, RELEASOR expressly releases  
the CITY and waives any and all claims against the CITY for any and all liability incurred as a  
result of the medical treatment received. This release and waiver expressly includes all costs of  
emergency care and/or transportation.