

MANAGE YOUR RISK

Emergency Vehicle Driver Selection Criteria

Emergency vehicles are one of the most important assets that your organization has. The safe operation of these vehicles, particularly during emergency response, depends greatly on the ability and skills of the driver.

With so much riding in the driver's hands, your organization should select and utilize only the best drivers. Selecting, training and maintaining good, safe drivers should not be left to chance. Your organization can minimize negative attributes and maximize all of the good attributes of a driver by utilizing the following operations and methods.

Motor Vehicle Reports (MVRs)

Knowing your drivers on and off duty driving habits and records is an important tool in both selecting and maintaining the safest drivers for your emergency vehicles. Routine administrative reviews of all drivers MVRs is the most effective way to know the specific driving habits of individual drivers. VFIS recommends that all MVRs should be reviewed annually or minimally every three years and that a copy be retained in each members personnel file.

If the department chooses to conduct the MVRs on less than an annual basis, then interim activities should also be completed. Some of these activities would be to annually require each driver to produce a valid driver's license and financial responsibility card (proof of insurance) and retain a photo copy in the members file. Equally as important is how these MVRs are evaluated. An evaluation criteria should be included as part of the evaluation process and should be used so that everyone's records are evaluated equally.

Department of Motor Vehicles Transcript Evaluation Requirements

Class A Violation

An individual who has a Class A violation within the past three (3) years normally receives a license suspension from the Department of Motor Vehicles which issued the license. In addition VFIS guidelines call for suspension of driving privileges for anyone convicted of a Class A violation for a period of eighteen (18) months. Additionally, any of these individuals would also be required to attend an approved driver-improvement program, or equivalent training, and be re-qualified to operate emergency vehicles.

Class B Violation

Any individual who has a combination of two (2) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will be issued a warning letter from the chief officer or administrative officer of the emergency service organization.

DISCLAIMER: This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization's needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm, or damage to personnel, property, and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control Representative at (800) 233-1957.

Any individual who has a combination of three (3) moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will be issued a suspension of driving department vehicles for a period of ninety (90) days by the chief officer or administrative office of the emergency service organization.

Any individual who has more than three (3) moving violation convictions or three (3) chargeable accidents or any combination of more than three (3) of the formerly stated violations in a three (3) year period will be issued a suspension of driving department vehicles for a period of one (1) year. In addition, the same individual would be required to complete an approved driver improvement program and be re-qualified to operate emergency vehicles.

Note: Unusual circumstances with individual cases would be evaluated on a one-to-one basis.

Violation Types

Violations

Designation of Type A and Type B violations are based on a survey of state point systems. Violations receiving higher numbers of points are classed as Type A.

Type A Violations

1. Driving while intoxicated.
2. Driving under the influence of drugs.
3. Negligent homicide arising out of the use of a motor vehicle (gross negligence).
4. Operating during a period of suspension or revocation.
5. Using a motor vehicle for the commission of a felony.
6. Aggravated assault with a motor vehicle.
7. Operating a motor vehicle without owner's authority.
8. Permitting an unlicensed person to drive.
9. Reckless driving.
10. Hit and run driving.

Type B Violations

All moving violations not listed as Type A violations. (Exceeding posted speed limit is a Type B violation).

Note: Unusual circumstances with individual cases would be evaluated on a one-to-one basis.