
	<i>FIRE RESCUE</i> ALBEMARLE COUNTY STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY	
	Subject:	Driver Eligibility
	Reference Number:	SAP-DEP-051
	Effective Date:	14 th October 2013
	Last Revision Date:	1 st May 2018
	Signature of Approval:	 J. Dan Eggleston, Chief

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide clarification for driver eligibility based on years of experience and vehicle classification.

Scope: This policy applies to the Albemarle County Fire and EMS System as defined by Ordinance

Background: The safety of the citizens and personnel of the System are of paramount importance. Ensuring that individuals driving all classifications of emergency vehicles have the appropriate experience, training and education help ensure that safety is maintained. A single standard of driving experience does not recognize the variety of apparatus and uses for our complex system. Virginia Motor Vehicle Code 46.2-090 requires emergency vehicle drivers to have due regard for the safety of persons and property. The Virginia Office of EMS rules and Regulations requires EMS agencies to establish a written policy that establishes the monitoring of compliance with all driving criteria set forth in the adopted regulations. Additionally, the insurance carrier suggests a policy outlining a driver eligibility be adopted.

Definitions:

Agency- The fire department or rescue squad in which a member is affiliated. The system as a whole is referred to as Albemarle County Fire Rescue (ACFR) or the County.

Class A Violations-

- Operating under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other impairment
- Failure to stop following an accident, or "hit and run"
- Homicide or manslaughter with a motor vehicle
- Knowingly operating a vehicle while license under suspension
- Participating in a speed contest or drag race
- Fleeing or eluding a police officer
- Driving to endanger
- Use of a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony
- Theft or use of motor vehicle w/out permission from the owner
- Assault with a motor vehicle

Class B Violations- Any moving violation or point carrying violation, not considered a Class A violation. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Speeding
- Reckless driving (Counts as two Class B violations)
- Unlawful lane change
- Chargeable motor vehicle accidents

Class 1 Vehicle- A GVW of 10,000lbs or less; usually cars, sport utility vehicles, vans, and pick-up trucks.

Class 2 Vehicle- A GVW of 10,000 to 26,000 lbs.; usually ambulances, utility vehicles, brush trucks.

Class 3 Vehicle- A GVW of 26,001lbs or greater; engines, tankers, aerials and heavy squad trucks.

Valid Driver's License- A driver's license issued or recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Policy:

1. **Driver Eligibility**- Any individual operating a vehicle, in any capacity, insured by the County of Albemarle must meet the following minimum criteria:
 - a. Be a minimum of 18 years of age
 - b. Possess a valid driver's license without court granted restrictions
 - c. Have a DMV record on file with their Agency
 - i. New drivers must have a DMV record obtained within the last 3 months
 - ii. A biannual review of all existing driver's DMV records will be conducted by the County or the Agency may conduct the review if they so choose. Documentation will be provided upon request. Subscription to an automated DMV notification system satisfies this requirement.
 - d. Possess a satisfactory driving record. A satisfactory driving record is one that has:
 - i. No evidence of conviction for any Class A violation in the past 36 months
 - ii. No more than two convictions for any Class B violations in the past 36 months
 - iii. One Class B violation in a 36 month period may be removed from consideration if an approved DMV driver improvement course is taken after the infraction.
 - e. Review County and Agency policies as it relates to vehicle operations
 - f. Have permission of their Agency to operate the vehicle
2. **Non-Emergent Driving**- Any individual that meets the criteria in Section 1 can drive a Class 1 vehicle in a non-emergent capacity. The following additional criteria must be met to operate a Class 2 or Class 3 vehicle in a non-emergent capacity.
 - a. **Class 2 Vehicles**
 - i. Possessed a valid driver's license for a minimum of two years
 - ii. Currently participating in an Agency approved driver's training program and be supervised by a released operator or
 - iii. Possess EVOG and be released to operate independently
 - b. **Class 3 Vehicles**
 - i. Possessed a valid driver's license for a minimum of three years
 - ii. Currently participating in an Agency approved driver's training program and be supervised by a released operator or
 - iii. Possess EVOG and be released to operate independently
3. **Emergent Driving**- Any individual operating any vehicle, regardless of class, in an emergent capacity, must meet the following criteria in addition to the criteria in Section 1 and 2.
 - a. Possess EVOG certification
 - b. Be released to operate in an emergent capacity by their Agency
4. All approved operators are to notify Agency leadership within (10) days of any moving violation while operating a vehicle. Final court disposition shall also be reported within (10) days of the date of conviction.

5. Enforcement

- a. Any individual who has a combination of two (2) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a 36 month period will be issued a warning letter from the chief officer or administrative officer of the Agency.
- b. Any individual who has one (1) Class A or a combination of three (3) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a 36 month period will be suspended from driving department vehicles until a satisfactory driving record is obtained as defined in Section 1, by the chief officer or administrative office of the Agency. In addition, the individual would be required to be re-released by the Agency to operate emergency vehicles.
- c. Additional training may be conducted on an 'as needed basis' for personnel who demonstrate a pattern of unacceptable driving performance, as determined by the Agency.
- d. Nothing in this policy shall reduce the authority of an Agency to provide greater disciplinary measures including the loss of driving privileges, suspension or termination.