Southern Webster County Fire Protection District

Apparatus Operation Policy

Policy No.: 2025-06

Effective Date: 08/12/205

Issued By: Deputy Chief Justin Levy

Approved by: Board President. On

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish standardized requirements, procedures, and safety guidelines for the operation of all Southern Webster County Fire Protection District (SWCFPD) apparatus and emergency vehicles in order to protect personnel, the public, and district property.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of SWCFPD who operate or may operate district apparatus, including volunteer, and probationary members.

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3. Policy Statement

Only qualified and authorized members shall operate district apparatus. All apparatus operations shall be conducted in accordance with applicable Missouri state laws, OSHA regulations, and NFPA standards (including NFPA 1002 – Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications).

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4. Driver/Operator Qualifications

1. Authorization

- Members must be approved by the Fire Chief or designee to operate district apparatus.

2. Training Requirements

- Completion of district apparatus orientation, including location of all equipment and operational features.
- Successful completion of a supervised road test and pump operations test (if applicable).

3. Licensing

- All drivers must hold a valid Missouri driver's license appropriate for the class of vehicle being operated.
- Members must report any license suspension or revocation immediately to the Fire Chief.

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5. Apparatus Operation Rules

1. Response Driving

- All apparatus operators shall drive with due regard for safety and in compliance with Missouri traffic laws.
- Emergency response driving is permitted only when responding to a dispatched emergency call.
- Seat belts must be worn by all occupants at all times.
- Audible and visual warning devices must be activated during emergency response.

2. Speed Limits

- Operators shall not exceed posted speed limits by more than 10 mph under emergency conditions, and must reduce speed for weather, traffic, and road conditions.

3. Intersection Control

- Apparatus must come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs before proceeding when responding under emergency conditions.

- The right-of-way must always be confirmed visually before entering an intersection.

4. Backing

- A spotter shall be used for all apparatus backing operations.
- If no spotter is available, the driver must exit the vehicle and visually check the area before backing.

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6. On-Scene Operations

- Parking brakes must be engaged before personnel exit the apparatus.
- Wheel chocks shall be used on all apparatus parked on any grade.
- Pumps, aerials, and other specialized equipment will be operated only by trained personnel.

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7. Maintenance & Checks

- Apparatus shall be checked at least once per month during scheduled truck checks, and after every use.
- Any mechanical or operational issues shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer, Deputy Chief and documented in the maintenance log.
- Operators are responsible for ensuring apparatus are fueled and ready for the next response before returning to quarters.

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8. Accidents & Damage Reporting

- Any accident, damage, or mechanical failure occurring during apparatus operation must be reported immediately to the Deputy Chief and documented in writing before the end of the incident.

Accident and Drug Testing

Any employee involved in an accident with district apparatus or equipment will be subject to an immediate drug test via oral swab administered on scene or as soon as practicable.

- Positive Result: If the oral swab yields a positive result for any controlled substance, the employee shall immediately report to an approved medical clinic for a confirmatory drug panel test.
- The confirmatory test results will be used to determine any further administrative action in accordance with District policy and applicable law.
- Refusal to submit to either test will be treated as a positive result and addressed per District disciplinary procedures.

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9. Disciplinary Action

- Unauthorized operation of district apparatus, reckless driving, or violation of this policy may result in suspension of driving privileges and further disciplinary action.

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10. References

- NFPA 1002 – Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1500 – Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program
- Missouri Revised Statutes – Emergency Vehicle Operation Laws
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910 Subpart L – Fire Protection