

	Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission Operations Manual	No. 02.02
		Effective Date: December 1, 2001
	Apparatus Operations	Revised Date: December 1, 2015

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County Fire Service Personnel.

II. PURPOSE

- A. To establish minimum apparatus operations guidelines in an effort to enhance personnel safety.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. Driver's Training

1. All departments shall have an established driver's training program and clearance procedure for all apparatus within their station. The clearance procedure must include a minimum of the following:
 - a. Minimum driver's license and training requirements to operate the apparatus.
 - b. A skills checklist which documents each step of the candidate's clearance process.
 - c. In addition to the above, driver candidates for EMS transport units must successfully complete the credentialing procedure as defined in FEC Operations Manual Section 3 Subsection 03.04 titled "*EMS Credentialing*".
2. All departments shall develop and maintain a current driver's list.

- a. The list will contain the department's members who have met the requirements for their department's insurance carrier and driver's training program.
3. The Chief of the department or their designee must approve the clearance of all drivers for all apparatus within their department.
4. All departments shall require annual training to refresh each driver's apparatus and pump operations skills.

B. Apparatus Operations

1. All apparatus shall be operated in a manner which is in compliance with all applicable laws dictated under the Maryland Motor Vehicles Law during both emergency and nonemergency operations.
2. Personnel shall refer and adhere to the "*Fire Suppression Responses Policy*", located in the FEC Operations Manual under Section 2 Subsection 02.07 for all response guidelines.
3. Avoid backing where possible
 - a. When backing is unavoidable, use a guide.
 - b. When a guide is unavailable, dismount and walk completely around the vehicle before backing.

C. Incident Operations

1. When driving apparatus on the fire ground, drivers must resist the tendency to drive hastily or imprudently. Drivers must consider the dangers their moving vehicle poses to fire ground personnel and spectators who may be pre-occupied with the emergency and inadvertently step into the path of the moving vehicle.
2. Each department shall have a policy outlining when apparatus Driver/Operators may participate in fire suppression operations or remain with their apparatus during incident operations.

William H. Faust, Chairman
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission