

- f) When a SOG is issued that updates an existing SOG, the earlier policy becomes invalid and should not be used.

Section 200: Membership

All members must be 18 years of age or older, 21 years of age to drive department equipment (additional requirements outlined in job descriptions), and meet the membership requirements of EPRFPD.

200.01: Duties

It shall be the duty of all EPRFPD personnel to adhere to the rules, regulations, policies, SOG's, oral and written orders, respond promptly to page outs, attend training sessions, and conduct themselves in accordance with established practices written in this document and EPRFPD's Rules and Regulations.

Section 201: Safety

Emergency operations sometimes require that personnel perform in a situation that poses significant risk. These safety procedures are meant to provide a framework to reduce risk when en route to emergency incidents. Command is responsible for safety at all incidents.

201.01: Protective Clothing

All personnel shall, when working a fire or heavy rescue situation, wear full protective clothing provided by EPRFPD. This includes:

- a) Appropriate full duty turnouts (bunker boots/bunker pants/bunker jacket)
- b) Helmet with chin strap and eye protection
- c) Brush gear
- d) Approved boots (Minimum 8")
- e) Nomex or PBI hood
- f) Approved gloves
- g) Ear plugs (as required).

Firefighters shall don protective clothing before boarding apparatus or upon arrival at scene in a safe location.

Structure Fires. Motor Vehicle Accidents - Full turnouts required.

Wildland Fires - Full Wildland issued equipment required w / proper boots.

Medical Calls - Some type of identifying outer garment that identifies you with EPRFPD.

All fire department issued equipment is for official department use only and will not be used for personal purposes.

201.02: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

All firefighters shall don respiratory protective equipment for all interior structural fires, vehicle fires, fires in other confined spaces, in potentially contaminated atmospheres, areas where an oxygen deficient or toxic atmosphere may exist, at other incidents which require respiratory protection, or when directed by command.

Members raising ladders, operating lines outside a fire building, performing exterior ventilation (roofs, etc.) or other external activities are not mandated to use respiratory protective equipment, however, it is strongly suggested that an SCBA be worn while performing these or similar operations.

Command may not order the removal of SCBA unless it is proven that a clear environment is present. When masks are removed, they shall not be dropped or left in a building or other area where they may be subject to damage. SCBA masks shall be returned and stored in the individual protective bag.

Fit testing for SCBA masks is mandatory and is done on a regular basis by an approved fit test method.

201.03: Personal Alert Safety Devices

If you are in an emergency situation and you become lost or disoriented, activate your PAS alarm. Try to stay calm, stay in same location if possible and initiate radio communication as soon as your PAS device is activated. Attempt to provide a radio report utilizing the following acronym:

L: Location

U: Unit identifier

N: Name

A: Assignment and air supply

R: Resources needed

All personnel shall assemble for accountability. Incident shall go into rescue mode and standard search and rescue pattern shall begin.

201.04: Emergency Response of Apparatus (Code 3)

All drivers and operators of fire department vehicles shall drive in a deliberate and responsible manner and shall adhere to the principle of the Basic Speed Law with due regard for the safety of all persons and property. Drivers should pay constant attention to atmospheric influences on visibility, vehicle stability and control, road conditions and hazards as well as traffic volume and congestion when determining vehicle speed.

Drivers of fire department vehicles bear the ultimate responsibility for the proper operation of a department vehicle. Each driver shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway. Each driver must follow the California Vehicle Code when operating a department vehicle either Code 2 or Code 3.

All occupants are required to wear seat belts and/or shoulder harnesses at all times when driving or riding in fire department vehicles. Drivers are responsible for the proper seating and fastening of the passengers prior to moving the vehicle.

Headlights should be used day or night, whether driving under routine or "Code 3" conditions to heighten visibility of any EPRFPD vehicle for other motorists and pedestrians.

Section 22350 of the California Vehicle Code states: "No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property."

Section 21055 of the California Vehicle Code exempts the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from specific sections of the vehicle code (see 8.A.451.09) while responding to or operating at the scene of an emergency call provided the driver sounds a siren as may be reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians. However, Section 21056 goes on to state that Section 21055 does not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor protect him from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges granted in that section.

Department policy defines Code 3 driving as the operation of an authorized emergency vehicle in response to an emergency call or while actively engaged in an emergency call, but not returning from an emergency call, when such emergency requires an expeditious response. Only those personnel who are properly trained and licensed and whose duties necessitate driving Code 3 may do so.

Drivers of fire department emergency vehicles bear the ultimate responsibility for the proper operation of a department vehicle. Each driver shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway.

Road position: When responding Code 3, the fire department emergency vehicle should normally be driven with the flow of traffic in the lane of traffic closest to the center of the roadway.

Maximum speed: When responding Code 3, fire department vehicles may, based on the principle of the Basic Speed Law, exceed the speed limit by up to 10 miles per hour.

Use of warning devices: The use of warning lights, sirens and/or other traffic warning devices does not automatically give the right-of-way to the emergency unit. These devices simply request the right-of-way from other drivers based upon their awareness of the emergency units. When responding Code 3, the driver shall use installed warning devices as directed in this policy. This includes:

- a) Activation of all installed warning lights.
- b) Continuous sounding of a siren, as may be reasonably necessary, in the "wail", "yelp", or "hi-lo" mode. Drivers may limit the use of the siren when responding through residential areas during normal sleeping hours.
- c) Intermittent use of an air horn, may supplement, but not act in lieu of the siren.

Driving through Intersections: When approaching an intersection, the driver should reduce the speed of an emergency vehicle so as to allow the vehicle to be brought to a complete stop, if necessary, based on the position and actions of cross and opposing vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Prior to movement through the intersection, the driver of the emergency vehicle should visually account for the vehicles in each of the lanes of the cross and opposing traffic. A driver shall not respond through an intersection without first visually confirming it is safe to do so. The driver should not rely on the presence of a green traffic light as a signal that it is safe to proceed through an intersection. In the case of a red light the driver shall come to a complete stop before proceeding.

Passing other responding emergency vehicles: A driver may pass other responding

emergency vehicles only when radio contact is made and the action is coordinated.

Travel against on-coming traffic: Fire department vehicles traveling Code 3 should avoid traveling against on-coming traffic. If there is no reasonable way to proceed with the traffic flow, travel against on-coming traffic is acceptable with a direct visual accounting of the opposing traffic by the driver and at a reduced speed.

Passing on the right: Drivers of fire department emergency vehicles responding Code 3 should give vehicular traffic an opportunity to yield to the right-of-way request and move to the right of the roadway. If a vehicle slows in the path of the emergency vehicle during an emergency response, passing on the right is acceptable when it has been reasonably established that the civilian traffic will not properly yield to a right-of-way request and it is safe to do so.

All approved drivers must complete Code 3 training annually and sign the associated agreement contract to adhere to the policies which apply to Code 3 response.

Fire department personnel riding in the right front seat when responding Code 3 should provide visual support to the driver and report any hazards.

An officer may modify the response code at any time, if in her/his best judgment a Code 3 response might jeopardize the safety of all persons and property. In the absence of an officer, the driver may exercise the same discretion and modify the response.

EXCERPTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE

Exemption of Authorized Emergency Vehicle

21055. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle is exempt from Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 21350), Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21650), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 21800), Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 21950), Chapter 6 (commencing with 22100), Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 22348), Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 22450), Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 22500), and Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 22650) of this division, and Article 3 (commencing with Section 38305) and Article 4 (commencing with Section 38312) of Chapter 5 of Division 16.5, under all of the following conditions:

- (a) If the vehicle is being driven in response to an emergency call or while engaged in rescue operations or is being used in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or is responding to, but not returning from, a fire alarm, except that fire department vehicles are exempt whether directly responding to an emergency call or operated from one place to another as rendered desirable or necessary by reason of an emergency call and operated to the scene of the emergency or operated from one fire station to another or to some other location by reason of the emergency call.
- (b) If the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren as may be reasonably necessary and the vehicle displays a lighted red lamp visible from the front as a warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

A siren shall not be sounded by an authorized emergency vehicle except when required under this section.

Effect of Exemption

21056. Section 21055 does not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using highway, nor protect him from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of the privileges granted in that section.

201,05: Driving Personal Owned Vehicle (POV's)

There may be times when EMT's or higher certification will make the decision to respond to an incident in a POY, The following guidelines should be considered when responding POY:

- a) Only EMT or higher is permitted to respond POY to scene for medical calls if equipped with proper medical supplies necessary to perform duties upon arrival.
- b) All EPRFPD personnel are required to possess a valid California Drivers License.
- c) Obey all traffic and speed laws.
- d) Park in a manner that POY does not interfere with the flow of traffic or the response of other emergency vehicles to or from scene. Also, take into consideration destruction of evidence at accident and fire scenes when parking.

201,06: Power Equipment

When operating power equipment such as saws, jaws, or air bags, full protective equipment shall be worn. Ear and eye protection are required. The manufacturer's safety procedures shall be followed at all times. Power saws should not be operated above the waist without a spotter. Only trained personnel shall operate power equipment.

201.07: Apparatus

Apparatus shall remain in quarters, unless responding to an incident, training, or maintenance.

Any emergency repairs or modifications to apparatus, shall not compromise safety or cause further damage to the equipment and the chief, or his/her designee must be notified immediately.

It is the responsibility of the last driver of the apparatus to both notify the chief, or his/her designee, as well as post on the station board, any uncorrected problems that apparatus has.

The apparatus will be checked on a weekly basis. The checks will be documented on a Weekly Equipment Check Form, which will be located in the binder in each apparatus.

Every time an apparatus is backed, drivers should position a crew member outside to the rear of the vehicle to look for hazards, assist in directing the vehicle and check for pedestrians and obstacles.

Prior to responding to a fire call, responders shall visually inspect the fire apparatus for signs of obvious problems, such as low or flat tires, fluid leaks, or other problems that would impact the function of the vehicle.

When parking apparatus in quarters, it is the responsibility of the apparatus operator to make sure all equipment batteries on that apparatus are in the *QEE* position and electrical and air lines are connected to the apparatus, where appropriate.

201.08: Station

Stations shall be kept clean and orderly inside, and maintained around the outside perimeter. Any repairs needed to stations need to be reported to the chief or his/her designee.

Members present at the station shall be respectful of the county/city roads, property and atmosphere, exhibiting courtesy and professionalism.

Responders shall not block roads or station doors with their personal vehicles.

Before leaving the station, make sure all appropriate lights are off and doors are secure.

201.09: Station Safety

There are many safety concerns around a fire department facility. Personnel should be aware of possible slippage on water, oil, and other apparatus leakage. Personnel should also be aware of open compartments, hanging lines and hoses. Pressurized bottles are also a concern for being dropped, leakage, and possible explosion if mixed with the wrong environment. Please be careful and report any concerns to your immediate supervisor or captain. *See also EPRFPD Injury & Illness Prevention Program Policy.*

201.10: Hose Line Safety

Hose lines can be very dangerous if over-pressured. For safety purposes, engine operator's panel pressure relief valves should be set at 150 psi. Hose lines for interior attack purposes should begin at 100 psi, and interior crews can adjust the pressure up as needed.

Appliance pressure should not be above 200 psi (125 psi for wildland hose), without notifying the officer in charge. Hose lines are tested to 300 psi, and that pressure shall not be exceeded. At operating pressure > 150 psi, valves and nozzles should be operated slowly.

201.11: Highway Safety Vest. (Public Safety Vest)

When the nature of an incident requires personnel to work in or near moving traffic, the following personal protective equipment shall be worn:

- a) Structural fire turnouts including helmet, bunker pants, bunker jacket, gloves and boots.
- b) Safety Vest's must be ANSI 207-2011 compliant and donned over the bunker jacket.

The Highway Safety Vests need not be worn when personnel are directly involved in:

- a) Suppression of a vehicle fire.
- b) While wearing an SCBA.
- c) Technical rescue.

The Highway Safety Vest should be donned as soon as personnel have completed their assignment in the above three conditions.

Any personnel not wearing appropriate safety gear will be personally responsible for any OSHA fines.