

SAFETY GRAM

Captain Barry G. Ellis
Safety Officer

April 1, 2005

VEHICLE CONTROL AND RIGHT-OF-WAY

All drivers shall maintain control of the vehicle that they are operating in such a manner as to provide the maximum level of safety for both their passengers and the general public. Apparatus drivers should be aware that civilian vehicle operators might not react in the manner that is expected or felt to be appropriate. An attempt should be made to have "avoidance" option(s) available when passing or overtaking vehicles. If another vehicle operator fails to yield the right of way to an apparatus, the apparatus driver cannot force the right-of-way, nor assume the right-of-way. Therefore, you do not have the right-of-way until the other vehicle yields to you.

The apparatus driver shall be aware of his/her rate of closure on other vehicles and pedestrians at all times to make sure that a safe following distance is established and maintained. All drivers shall follow the rule for safe following distance and allow one (1) second of following distance for every ten (10) feet of vehicle length for speed under 40 mph and add one (1) additional second for each ten (10) mph for speeds over 40 mph, plus additional time for inclement weather and traffic conditions.

For example, the driver of a fire engine, which is approximately 30 to 32 feet in length, shall maintain a safe following distance of 3 seconds if they are traveling at 30 mph (1 second x 3 (30 feet long) = 3 seconds). If, however, the driver of a fire engine was traveling at 50 mph, he would leave a safe following distance of 6 seconds (initial 1 second + 1 second for traveling of 40 mph) x 3 (30 feet long) = 6 seconds).

Draft Driving SOG 108.008

Station Safety Violation (42)

Fire doors in several of the stations are still being blocked open. Fire doors shall be closed at all times. Life Safety Codes apply to the Fire Service too.



Dispersion level Chart

- Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fireline Handbook Jan. '98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.
Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.
Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.
Ensure instructions are given and understood.
Obtain current information on status.
Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.
Determine safety zones and escape routes.
Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.
Remain in control at all times.
Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

NWCG Handbook 3