

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram

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Battalion 20A/Safety 10

Engine Operations

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- Circle of Safety
 - Before entering the cab and starting the vehicle, the apparatus driver shall make a “circle of safety” walk around the vehicle to see that all equipment is secured, that all compartment doors are securely closed, and any physical obstructions moved out of the way. During the “circle of safety”, the apparatus driver shall encircle the vehicle and visually inspect all four sides and the vertical clearance of the vehicle before entering the cab. The driver shall also verify vehicle clearance with the person riding in the officer position. The driver shall verify and ensure that all individuals traveling in the vehicle have securely fastened their seat belts. This shall be conducted before moving the vehicle regardless of whether or not the vehicle is about to leave for an emergency or non-emergency response.
- All vehicles going to fires should stop for traffic lights and stop signs, even when using warning lights, siren, and air horns. Watch for on coming traffic.
- Mark vehicles parked on highway at fires by flags or warning lights in front and back to warn motorists of presence of equipment and personnel.
- Personnel shall have on PPE at all times on fire grounds.
- An engine operator, a hose puller, and a nozzle operator are desirable for effective use of engine in performing fire suppression operations. **Do not ride on top of Brush attack tanks.**
- Do not operate master streams while Division of Forestry dozers are operating in the area.
- Park engines on the side of the road away from oncoming fire to reduce heat exposure on equipment and allow other vehicles to pass. **Do not block road with your engine. Allow room for tankers and keep LECS in mind.**
- Engine will be positioned for a quick get-away.
- Engines should be attended at all times.
- Adequate supervision and good communications, including hand signals, are necessary for safety, effective engine work.

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.

Fire-line 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.

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