

Title: Harrison County Fire/ EMS Driving Policy	Page 1 of 3
	Review/Revised:
	Origination Date: 03/16/2009
	Review Date:

Policy:

1. Notification

- When the Harrison County Communications Center receives a call for assistance, Fire and/or EMS personnel will be immediately notified via radio/pagers.
- The responding squads will respond without delay and advise the dispatcher of all pertinent times.
- Crews may self dispatch upon receipt of information however the Communications Center must be notified.

2. Codes

- Non emergency - No lights or siren
- Standard emergency – Emergency lights and sirens (may exceed posed speed by 10 mph).
- 1033 - Emergency lights and sirens (life threat - may exceed posted speed by 10 mph).
- The responding Crew may alter this code if they feel that patient condition or field conditions warrants a change.

In accordance with the National Incident Management System [NIMS], plain English will be utilized for communication on Fire and/or EMS calls.

3. Operation of Harrison County Fire/EMS Vehicle

- All Harrison County Fire/EMS vehicles will be operated in accordance with the State of Iowa laws regarding emergency and non-emergency response as inserted below.
- Successful completion of a course in emergency driving techniques and a review of the laws and rules governing emergency vehicle operation are required.
- Formal drivers training will be scheduled as deemed necessary by the Fire Chief, EMS Captain or the Medical Director.
- In the event of an accident the Fire Chief, EMS Captain, City Administrator, County EMS Director or other regulatory agency shall be notified as soon as possible

4. Iowa Code

321.231 Authorized emergency vehicles and police bicycles.

1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected perpetrator of a felony or in response to an incident dangerous to the public or when responding to, but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section.
2. The driver of any authorized emergency vehicle may:
 - a. Park or stand an authorized emergency vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter.
 - b. Disregard laws or regulations governing direction of movement for the minimum distance necessary before an alternative route that conforms to the traffic laws and regulations is available.
3. The driver of a fire department vehicle, police vehicle, or ambulance, or a peace officer riding a police bicycle in the line of duty may do any of the following:
 - a. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

Title: Harrison County Fire/EMS Driving Policy	Page 2 of 3
	Review/Revised:
	Origination Date: 03/16/2009
	Review Date:

b. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver does not endanger life or property.

4. The exemptions granted to an authorized emergency vehicle under subsection 2 and for a fire department vehicle, police vehicle, or ambulance as provided in subsection 3 shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of an audible signaling device meeting the requirements of section 321.433 or a visual signaling device, except that use of an audible or visual signaling device shall not be required when exercising the exemption granted under subsection 3, paragraph "b" of this section when the vehicle is operated by a peace officer, pursuing a suspected violator of the speed restrictions imposed by or pursuant to this chapter, for the purpose of determining the speed of travel of such suspected violator.

5. The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or the rider of a police bicycle from the duty to drive or ride with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver or rider from the consequences of the driver's or rider's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

5. Minimum Driving Requirements

The Emergency Vehicle Driver (EVD) shall maintain a current Iowa driver's license. A Class D chauffeur's license is recommended but not required.

Before the EVD can drive in an emergency situation, the following actions must be successfully completed:

- Complete and pass a course meeting the requirements for emergency driving as outlined in Chapter 321, Code of Iowa.
- On an annual basis, the EVD must complete and pass a driving course set up in accordance with International Firefighters Safety and Training Association (IFSTA) standards and complete an Emergency Communications Class or Communications update.

6. Driving During Orientation Period

During the three month orientation period, all department candidates will be accompanied by another Fire/EMS staff member while driving.

At their discretion, the Fire Chief or EMS Captain may approve driving privileges for a new staff member prior to meeting the above requirements.

7. Use of Non-departmental Drivers

In certain emergency situations and at the discretion of the Incident Commander, other public safety employees may be allowed to drive an ambulance. Other public safety employees may include:

- City of _____ or Harrison County Law Enforcement Officers
- City of _____ or Harrison County Firefighters
- Members of other Harrison County or neighboring EMS departments.

8. Acceptable Driving Record Criteria

Title: Harrison County Fire/ EMS Driving Policy	Page 3 of 3
	Review/Revised:
	Origination Date: 03/16/2009
	Review Date:

The Harrison County Fire/EMS driving record criteria will be in compliance with the State of Iowa, State Codes regarding driver's license requirements for applicants, employees and volunteers.

9. Initial Check of Driving Record

Following an offer for employment, a record of driving history will be obtained on each new employee through the IA Department of Transportation to ensure compliance with the State code regarding driving requirements.

10. Change of Driving Record

A driving history will be obtained on each employee on an as needed basis to ensure compliance with this policy regarding driving requirements or any change in driving record status.

All EMS Personnel will notify the Fire Chief/EMS Captain of any change to the status of their driver's license or driving privileges.

Reference(s):

Iowa code 321.231

Originator(s):

Signature(s):
