

<b>Campbell County Fire Department</b> <b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>		
Apparatus/Vehicle Operations	Safe Driving Procedures	<i>302.01</i>

**I. PURPOSE:**

To establish the driving procedure and specific responsibilities for the safe operation of all Fire Department vehicles.

**II. SCOPE:**

This procedure applies to all CCFD personnel and equipment.

**III. PROCEDURE:**

1. It is the responsibility of the driver of each Campbell County Fire Department vehicle to drive safely and prudently at all times. Vehicles shall be operated in compliance with Wyoming Statutes. This code provides specific legal exceptions to regular traffic regulations which apply to Fire Department vehicles only when responding to an emergency incident. "Emergent" response does not absolve the driver of any responsibility to drive with due regard for public safety.
2. The driver of the emergency vehicle is responsible for its safe operation at all times. The officer or other member in charge of the vehicle is responsible for the safety of all vehicle operations and managing compliance of this procedure, but any other member of the Department has a duty and an obligation to immediately bring any apparent safe driving violations to the attention of the driver, the officer in charge, or the battalion chief.
3. Department medical personnel, when attending to patients in a Department (or other medical transport) vehicle, shall exercise reasonable and prudent precautions regarding passenger safety in a moving vehicle, but, by the nature of their work, cannot be expected or required to conform to all passenger safety requirements within this SOP.
4. Emergency Response Procedure:
  - 4.1. Campbell County Fire Department vehicles shall be operated in a manner that provides for the safety of all persons and property. Safe arrival shall not be compromised in the interest of speed, and careless or reckless driving at any time is prohibited.
5. Prompt, Safe Response Shall Be Attained By:
  - 5.1. Leaving the station in a standard manner:
    - 5.1.1. Quickly mounting apparatus with protective equipment (as required) donned.
    - 5.1.2. All personnel on board, seated and seat belts on
    - 5.1.3. Station doors fully open and compartment doors closed.
  - 5.2. Driving defensively and professionally at a speed appropriate for conditions.

Initial Approval: July 2008 Revision Date:	Page 1 of 5	Don Huber, Fire Chief  ORIGINAL SIGNED
---	-------------	--

# Campbell County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Apparatus/Vehicle Operations	Safe Driving Procedures	<i>302.01</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------

- 5.3. Knowing the destination and the best and safest route prior to entering the main road.
- 5.4. Using warning devices to move around traffic and to request the right-of-way in a safe and predictable manner.
- 6. Fast Response Shall Not Be Attained By:
  - 6.1. Leaving quarters before crew has mounted safely as described previously, and before bay doors are fully open.
  - 6.2. Driving too fast for conditions.
  - 6.3. Driving recklessly or without due regard for safety.
  - 6.4. Taking unnecessary chances with negative right-of-way intersections.
  - 6.5. Intimidating or scaring other drivers.
- 7. Specific Rules for "Emergent" Response:
  - 7.1. When responding "Emergent", warning lights must be on or sirens (audible warning devices) must be sounded (or both) to warn drivers of other vehicles, as required by the Wyoming Statutes.
  - 7.2. Emergency vehicle drivers must never assume that other drivers will understand and comply correctly with emergency response requests. Emergency vehicle drivers must make every possible effort to make their presence and intended actions known to other drivers and must drive professionally and defensively to be prepared for the unexpected inappropriate actions of others.
  - 7.3. Fire Department vehicles responding emergent and traveling over the posted speed limit incur an additional liability to the safety of others, as speed limits are designed for passenger vehicles and not heavy, difficult to handle fire apparatus. For this reason, Fire Department vehicles that exceed the maximum lawful speed limits shall do so only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property. All drivers of authorized emergency vehicles have a duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.
  - 7.4. Under less favorable conditions, the posted speed limit is the absolute maximum permissible. Less favorable conditions include but are not limited

Initial Approval: July 2008 Revision Date:	Page 2 of 5	Don Huber, Fire Chief  ORIGINAL SIGNED
---	-------------	--

# Campbell County Fire Department

## Standard Operating Procedure

Apparatus/Vehicle Operations	Safe Driving Procedures	<i>302.01</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------

to: heavy traffic, limited visibility, road under construction, poor road surface (washboard, potholes, wet, icy or snow covered, etc.).

- 7.5. Responding "Emergent" is most safely done with a minimum of two personnel in the cab of Department fire vehicles, but if a member must respond "solo", he must take measures to assure a safe response, such as preplanning his route and avoiding other distractions; otherwise he should respond "Routine".
- 7.6. Intersections present the greatest potential danger to emergency vehicles. When approaching and crossing an intersection with the right-of-way, drivers shall not exceed the posted speed limit.
- 7.7. When emergency vehicles must use oncoming traffic lanes to approach controlled intersections, (traffic light or stop sign) they must account for all traffic lanes before proceeding through the intersection at a speed allowing for subsequent stops. This includes occasions when the emergency vehicle has green traffic lights.
- 7.8. When approaching a negative right-of-way intersection (red light, stop sign) that is visibly occupied or when there is traffic approaching the intersection, the emergency vehicle shall come to a complete stop and may proceed only when the driver can account for traffic in all lanes yielding the right-of-way.
- 7.9. "Emergent" response is authorized only in conjunction with emergency incidents. Unnecessary emergency response puts firefighters and citizens at risk and shall be avoided. In order to avoid any unnecessary emergency response the following rules shall apply.
- 7.10. Even though SO Dispatch may not specifically air the response mode (emergent/non-emergent) for each unit on a particular call, by default the officer in charge of each unit should insure that:
- 7.11. On incidents such as fire alarms (no confirmed fire), vehicle fires, ONLY the first due fire apparatus responds "Emergent".
- 7.12. On confirmed wildland where structures are threatened a "Emergent" response is authorized for all units dispatched
- 7.13. On structure fires an "Emergent" response is authorized for all units dispatched.

Initial Approval: July 2008 Revision Date:	Page 3 of 5	Don Huber, Fire Chief  ORIGINAL SIGNED
---	-------------	--

# Campbell County Fire Department

## Standard Operating Procedure

Apparatus/Vehicle Operations	Safe Driving Procedures	<i>302.01</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------

- 7.14. NOTE: The officer in charge of each unit is authorized at any time to modify his response mode, using his discretion and based upon additional or more accurate information, or other determining factors.
- 7.15. When the first unit reports on the scene with "nothing showing" or an equivalent report, the officer shall advise additional units to respond "routine" whenever appropriate.
- 7.16. During an "Emergent" response, fire vehicles should avoid passing other emergency vehicles. If passing is necessary, permission must be obtained through radio communications.
8. "On Scene" Driving:
- 8.1. The unique hazards of driving on or adjacent to the fire/rescue ground requires the driver to use extreme caution and to be alert and prepared to react to the unexpected.
- 8.2. Drivers must consider the dangers their moving vehicle poses to fireground personnel and spectators who may be preoccupied with the emergency, and who may inadvertently step in front of or behind a moving vehicle.
- 8.3. When stopped at the scene of an incident, vehicles should be placed to protect personnel who may be working in the street and warning lights shall be used to make approaching traffic aware of the incident. At night, vehicle mounted floodlights and any other lighting available shall be used to illuminate the scene. Headlights unit of apparatus positioned against traffic shall be turned off to avoid "blinding" oncoming drivers. Utilize spotlights on traffic cones to direct traffic around the scene.
- 8.4. If it is not necessary to park vehicles in or near traffic lanes, the vehicle should be pulled off the road to parking lots, curbs, etc., whenever possible.
9. "Routine" Response and Normal Driving:
- 9.1. All Campbell County Fire Department members are required to use seat belts at all times when operating a Department vehicle equipped with seat belts. Anyone riding as a passenger in a Department vehicle is also required to use seat belts. The Company Officer or other member in charge will confirm that all personnel and riders are on-board, properly attired, with seat belts on, before the vehicle is permitted to move.

Initial Approval: July 2008 Revision Date:	Page 4 of 5	Don Huber, Fire Chief  ORIGINAL SIGNED
---	-------------	--

# Campbell County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Apparatus/Vehicle Operations	Safe Driving Procedures	<i>302.01</i>
---------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------

- 9.2. All personnel shall ride only in regular seats provided with seat belts. The exception to this wildland apparatus during fire attack. Riding on tailboards or other exposed positions is not permitted on any vehicle.
- 9.3. All personnel are encouraged to reduce the chances for damage and/or injury by establishing safe driving/operating habits. These habits include but are not limited to:
  - 9.3.1. Any member who wishes to remove any equipment from apparatus shall advise the driver/operator.
  - 9.3.2. Designated drivers will be the only personnel authorized to move the apparatus.
  - 9.3.3. The OIC will be advised anytime apparatus is to be moved to a location compromising response.
  - 9.3.4. Perform "360 degree walk around check" of apparatus prior to moving vehicle; items to check include closed compartments, securely mounted equipment, obstructions blocking vehicle movement, etc.
  - 9.3.5. Maintain adequate traffic cushion while driving to ensure readiness at all times; 20-30 feet cushion when stopped in traffic, avenue of exit when in traffic, etc.

## 10. Backing:

- 10.1. Drivers shall avoid backing whenever possible. Where backing is unavoidable, a guide shall be used whenever reasonable. If no guide is available, the driver shall dismount and walk completely around apparatus to determine if obstructions are present before backing; then back to the visible side (left side), if possible. Vehicles with unobstructed clear vision through the rear window (staff cars, pick up trucks, etc.) may back utilizing the mirrors and rear window.

## 11. Accidents:

- 11.1. Anytime a Department vehicle is involved in an accident the driver or officer shall:
  - 11.1.1. Notify SO Dispatch of response status; out of service, assigned to subsequent accident and your location.
  - 11.1.2. Notify SO Dispatch of accident and any requirements to treat and/or transport patients.
  - 11.1.3. Request response of a chief officer. Responding officer shall complete accident report packet and ensure that all procedures within accident report packet are followed.

Initial Approval: July 2008 Revision Date:	Page 5 of 5	Don Huber, Fire Chief  ORIGINAL SIGNED
---	-------------	--