



Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT/INCIDENT RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Purpose: To establish standards for emergency warning equipment and general guidelines for the operation of emergency vehicles, both department and privately owned.

Definitions:

1. Department: Shall refer to the Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department.
2. Authorized Emergency Vehicle: Shall be as defined in the Iowa Department of Transportation codes.

Permissible Conduct:

Operators of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

1. Park or stand, irrespective of another provision.
2. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign after slowing as necessary for safe operation.
3. Exceed a maximum posted speed limit as long as the operator does not endanger life and property.
4. Disregard a regulation governing the direction of movement or turning in a specific direction.

For the purpose of this guideline, no operator of a department owned emergency vehicle shall exceed the maximum posted speed limit by more than 10 mph., nor proceed through a functioning school zone or construction zone at a speed greater than the posted speed limit.

The above conduct is permissible only when the operator is responding to but not returning from an emergency call for service. Due care shall be taken when adverse weather/road and/or low visibility conditions exist.

Duty of Care

Neither state law nor this guideline relieves the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to operate the vehicle with due regard for the safety of all persons and property.

Emergency Equipment:

Audible

An authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell of a type approved by the department (except privately owned vehicles) and emit a sound audible under normal conditions at a distance of at least 500 feet. The operator shall use the audible device as necessary to warn other vehicle operators and/or pedestrians of the approach of the emergency vehicle.

Visual

An authorized emergency vehicle shall be equipped with flashing lights of a type approved by the department visible from the front and rear of the vehicle and shall emit a light visible at a distance of at least 500 feet in normal sunlight.

Equipment approval/operation:

All emergency equipment installed and operated in a privately owned vehicle shall be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee. No member shall be allowed to operate privately owned emergency equipment while on department probation/suspension or if convicted of the offense of driving while intoxicated.

Responses:

All responses to calls for service shall be considered an emergency response unless otherwise deemed by dispatch information or by the incident commander. Upon the determination an emergency response is downgraded, the operation of all emergency equipment should cease and vehicle operation returned to normal operation as defined by the Transportation Code.

Apparatus Response:

Apparatus responses should follow the orders of the Incident Commander. The addition/deletion of units to/from the assignment may occur at the discretion of the incident commander or as the situation dictates. The use of vehicle restraint systems should be utilized by all personnel any time a department vehicle is in motion.

**By Authority of:
Fire Chief**

Eugene Shaeffer