

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 200.01

SUBJECT: SEATBELTS

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

To establish a standard to provide maximum protection for all fire personnel while riding in or operating fire apparatus/vehicles.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINE

- A. It is mandatory that all personnel use the seat belt installed by the manufacturer properly and securely fastened when operating or riding in any vehicle so equipped while on duty.
 - B. No person shall modify, remove, deactivate, or otherwise tamper with the vehicle seat belts except as authorized by the Fire Chief.
 - C. Damaged, malfunctioning, or inoperable seat belts shall immediately be reported to the immediate supervisor and prompt action taken to repair or replace the identified equipment.
 - D. No person shall operate a vehicle in which the seat belt in the drivers' position is inoperable.
 - E. No person shall stand in the cab or don personnel protective equipment (PPE) while the apparatus/vehicle is in motion.
 - F. The driver/operator shall not move any apparatus/vehicle until all personnel are properly seat belted.
 - G. When responding to emergency incidents, all personnel are required to have personal protective equipment (PPE) donned prior to entering/boarding the apparatus. This does not include self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The SCBA shall be donned upon arrival at the incident after the apparatus has come to a full stop.
1. STEPS:
 - a. Don PPE (appropriate for response)
 - b. Board apparatus
 - c. Fasten seat belt
 - d. Arrive at incident or destination
 - e. Unfasten seat belt
 - f. Don SCBA (as appropriate for response)
 - g. Exit the apparatus

BENEFIT – In addition to reducing firefighter death and injury, this procedure allows time for a more thorough size up of life hazards, extent and location of the fire, and the development of strategies and tactics.

Exception: First arriving fire personnel awaiting for the vehicle to fill with other members

- H. If an alarm is received while the apparatus is in service in a non emergency role, all personnel shall don their PPE prior to responding to or upon arrival at the incident. At no time shall any personnel unbuckle or loosen their seat belt to don PPE while the vehicle is in motion.

Exception: Apparatus drivers and drivers of staff sedan/SUV type vehicles shall wear the PPE/clothing that is appropriate for the response, their operation as a driver, and the safe function of their duties.

- I. When it is necessary for personnel to be on the exterior of the apparatus for repacking of LDH hose and it is necessary for the apparatus to move to accomplish this task the following procedure shall be utilized.
1. A Safety Officer shall be assigned to monitor the operation.
 2. The Safety Officer and apparatus driver/operator shall remain in constant visual and radio contact.
 3. The apparatus driver/operator shall only move the apparatus when advised by the Safety Officer or officer in charge to do so.
 4. The apparatus driver/operator shall move the apparatus at the slowest speed possible to accomplish the task.
 5. The Safety Officer shall notify all personnel working on and around the apparatus every time the apparatus is to be moved.
 6. The area around the apparatus shall be illuminated as necessary to provide a safe and well lighted environment.

References – Wisconsin Administrative Code 30, NFPA 1500, Risk and frequency classification information - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php> and Wisconsin State Statutes.