

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 3 – Training

Section 302 – Training Programs

302.3 – Driver Training Program

Program Overview

The SFD has a responsibility to provide adequate and consistent training to members who drive and operate emergency vehicles and fire apparatus. This specialized equipment is complex with many systems and components not found on personally owned vehicles. The following program lays out a framework of training requirements from a new hire's probation period through separation of service.

Basic Driver Requirements

Every member of the Springdale Fire Department is expected to be able to drive a vehicle from date of hire until service separation. All personnel must complete a structured SFD provided emergency vehicle defensive driving course (typically at time of hire) and maintain a valid, state-issued driver's license.

Squads: In order to be assigned as driver of a Squad, a Firefighter must successfully complete Probation Program module 4 including demonstrating proficiency in non-emergency and emergency driving, basic maintenance and operation, and driving a simulated (cone) course in an ambulance.

STAT 1: In order to respond as the driver of STAT 1, a Firefighter must successfully complete Probation Program module 6 including demonstrating proficiency in non-emergency and emergency driving, basic maintenance and operation, and driving a simulated (cone) course in Stat 1.

Rescue 1: In order to be assigned as the driver of Rescue 1, a Firefighter must have successfully completed the Probationary Firefighter Training Program and demonstrated proficiency in non-emergency and emergency driving, basic maintenance and operation, and driving a simulated (cone) course. Those who drive Rescue 1 must also be approved by the Shift Commander to function as a member of a Truck Company and operate specialized extrication and stabilization equipment. This will typically be members assigned to a station housing an aerial apparatus.

Pickup-Trailer Combination: Those department members who may be assigned to drive a pickup truck and trailer combination must complete a training session on trailer towing and trailer brake setting/operation. This will include the USAR trailer, Haz-Mat Decon trailer and Fire Safety House at a minimum. Driving proficiency should be demonstrated annually by simulated (cone) course.

Apparatus Driver Requirements and Driver/Operator Certification

All SFD Firefighters hired on or after February 28, 2011 are expected to achieve and maintain Back-up Driver/Operator status within two years of their hire date. Company Officers will ensure that personnel are afforded the requisite time and experiences to meet this requirement. Failure to

achieve, or maintain this status (short of extenuating circumstances) may be considered a failure to perform the required duties and subject the member to disciplinary action.

Back-up Driver/Operator

To function as a Back-up Driver/Operator on SFD Engines, a Firefighter must:

- Complete the Arkansas Fire Academy (IFSAC) Driver/Operator course including the written exam, road test, simulated (cone) course, and practical evolutions.
- Complete additional training and testing on Springdale Fire Department apparatus as found in the Driver/Operator Program Manual-Engine Section, and display a thorough knowledge of all SFD policies and procedures pertaining to driving and pumping apparatus.
- Be recommended by the Training Officer and assigned Shift Commander for placement to the Back-up Driver/Operator List, subject to the final approval of the Fire Chief.

Additional training and testing is required before a Back-up Driver/Operator is allowed to operate aerial apparatus. The additional requirements are found in the Driver/Operator Program Manual-Aerial Section. This additional training may be mandatory for all personnel assigned to a station housing aerial apparatus. SFD Personnel who have met the additional training requirements for aerial apparatus must have approval from the Fire Chief to function in a back-up capacity on SFD aerial apparatus. An additional designation will be indicated in Section 302.3.2, Driver Operator List for all personnel who are approved to drive and operate aerial apparatus.

Driver/Operator

To promote to the position of Driver/Operator, a Firefighter must:

- Complete the requirements for Back-up Driver/Operator as indicated within this policy.
- Participate in a promotional test administered by the Springdale Civil Service Commission.

The Fire Chief will promote personnel to the Civil Service position of Driver/Operator in conjunction with Civil Service rules and regulations.

Shift Commanders are responsible for unit assignments for their assigned Driver/Operators. Driver/Operators permanently assigned to Aerial Apparatus must be approved by their Shift Commander, the Division Chief of Operations, and the Fire Chief.

Continuing Education Requirements

Back-up Driver/Operators and designated Driver/Operators must complete a minimum of 40 hours per year of documented driver training. The majority will be provided or assigned by the Training Officer and include at a minimum a simulated (cone) course and practical pumping evolutions. Back-up Driver/Operators and designated Driver/Operators must maintain a sufficient level of knowledge and skill so as to safely, effectively and efficiently drive and perform operations involving all types of emergency, pumping and aerial apparatus.

All other department members subject to driving city owned vehicles should at minimum demonstrate proficiency by driving the simulated (cone) course annually. Captains and Chief Officers should maintain a sufficient level of knowledge and skill so as to effectively supervise operations involving all types of emergency, pumping and aerial apparatus.