

Harrison County Fire/ EMS Driving Policy	Page 1 of 3
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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 the Communications Center shall be notified in accordance to Harrison County Communications protocols.

2. Codes

- Non emergency - No lights or siren
- Standard emergency – Emergency lights and sirens (may exceed posted speed by 10 mph).
- 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 warrant 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 standardized course in emergency driving techniques and a review of the laws and rules governing emergency vehicle operation are required.
- Formal driver's training will be scheduled biannually (every 2 years) and/or 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.

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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.
 - 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. All drivers shall be at least 18 years of age and have at least two years of driving experience prior to being certified by any department.

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

- Complete and pass an approved course meeting the requirements for emergency driving as outlined in Chapter 321, Code of Iowa, and a driving test operating an emergency vehicle. The standardized road test shall include: turning, backing, distance and clearance judgement, braking, and parking. See Annex #1 for approved driving test.
- On a Biannual basis (every 2 years), the EVD shall complete and pass an approved driving course and complete an Emergency Communications Class or Communications update.
- All EVD training and testing results shall be stored in personnel files at their department, and available for inspection as requested.

6. Driving During Probationary Period

During the probationary period, all department candidates shall be accompanied by a qualified Fire and/or EMS staff member while driving.

At their discretion, the Fire Chief or EMS Captain may approve driving privileges for a new staff member upon successful completion of the driving course identified in section 5, prior to meeting the above requirements.

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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. All Non-departmental drivers shall adhere to all SOP/SOG's. Other public safety employees may include but are not limited to:

- Mutual aiding Fire and EMS departments.

8. Acceptable Driving Record Criteria

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 yearly or 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):
