

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

S.O.G.: AO-1
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Revised:
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Fire Chief Signature

DATE

Title: Moving and Driving Fire Apparatus

Reference: Official Code of Georgia Annotated 40-6-6 (2022) Authorized Emergency Vehicles

Scope: All Personnel

Guidelines:

1. While driving to an emergency in a fire apparatus (in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-6-6)
 - a. May exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he/she does not endanger life or property
 - b. While passing, utilize a left side pass whenever possible, however the driver may choose the path of least resistance as long as he/she does not endanger life or property
 - c. The fire apparatus shall keep a minimum 4 second distance between the fire apparatus and the vehicle in front of it
 - d. While responding, all warning devices should be utilized including: warning lights, federal siren, electronic sirens, and air horn

2. Intersections during emergency response (in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-6-6)
 - a. May proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation. The driver and officer should communicate that the intersection is clear.

 - b. If a traffic light is green or changing, the driver of the fire apparatus should slightly reduce speed below the posted speed limit while proceeding through the intersection. The driver and officer should communicate that the intersection is clear.

- c. During a right or left turn at an intersection, the driver and officer must use due regard while making a clear and safe turn. The driver and officer should communicate that the intersection is clear.

3. Backing Guidelines:

- a. While backing a fire apparatus, there should be a ground guide on the left side of the apparatus motioning the driver backwards. The ground guide should remain in the view of the left side mirror until backing is complete.
- b. The driver should monitor the left side mirror to watch the ground guide and the left side of the apparatus
- c. The officer should use due regard and either stay in the OIC seat and constantly monitor the right side mirror for any obstructions or get out and become a front ground guide
- d. The rear ground guide and the front ground guide officer may use the radio system to initiate a stop by having the radio lapel mic in hand while the apparatus is backing. A message of “STOP, STOP, STOP” should be announced over the radio in the case of a potential immediate collision.

4. Departing the fire station

- a. Make sure all apparatus doors are closed before moving.
- b. Clear all sides of the apparatus of any items/personnel and ensure a minimum 3 foot clearance before moving the apparatus.
- c. The driver and officer should visually check that the overhead door is completely stowed and it has not started to come down while slowly leaving the apparatus bay.

Official Code of Georgia Annotated (40-6-6)

40-6-6. Authorized emergency vehicles; pursuit of fleeing suspects.

(a) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or law enforcement vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this Code section.

(b) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or law enforcement vehicle may:

(1) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter;

(2) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;

(3) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he or she does not endanger life or property; and

(4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.

(c) The exceptions granted by this Code section to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when such vehicle is making use of an audible signal and use of a flashing or revolving red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, except that a vehicle belonging to a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency and operated as such shall be making use of an audible signal and a flashing or revolving blue light with the same visibility to the front of the vehicle.

(d)(1) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

(2) When a law enforcement officer in a law enforcement vehicle is pursuing a fleeing suspect in another vehicle and the fleeing suspect damages any property or injures or kills any person during the pursuit, the law enforcement officer's pursuit shall not be the proximate cause or a contributing proximate cause of the damage, injury, or death caused by the fleeing suspect unless the law enforcement officer acted with reckless disregard for proper law enforcement procedures in the officer's decision to initiate or continue the pursuit. Where such reckless disregard exists, the pursuit may be found to constitute a proximate cause of the damage, injury, or death caused by the fleeing suspect, but the existence of such reckless disregard shall not in and of itself establish causation.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to issues of causation and duty and shall not affect the existence or absence of immunity which shall be determined as otherwise provided by law.

(4) Claims arising out of this subsection which are brought against local government entities, their officers, agents, servants, attorneys, and employees shall be subject to the procedures and limitations contained in Chapter 92 of Title 36.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an authorized emergency vehicle with flashing lights other than as authorized by subsection (c) of this Code section.