

*K. W. Perkins*, *Fire Chief****PURPOSE***

In the course of responding to emergency incidents, emergency vehicle drivers must operate their respective vehicles under extremely dangerous and stressful situations. It is imperative that emergency vehicle drivers operate their vehicles in a non-aggressive and defensive manner.

OBJECTIVE

To provide personnel with guidelines that identify driving practices that this department considers aggressive, and which will not be tolerated.

SCOPE

All Personnel

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING PRACTICES

Emergency vehicle drivers shall not employ aggressive driving techniques to force other drivers to yield the right-of-way, nor operate their vehicle in a manner that is intimidating or unsafe for other vehicles and their passengers.

Emergency vehicles must be operated with due regard for the safety of civilian traffic at all times, and under all circumstances. The elimination of aggressive driving techniques is also critical for protecting the safety of other crewmembers assigned to the vehicle.

Emergency vehicle drivers have been cited, fined, and sentenced to imprisonment for causing harm through aggressive or negligent driving practices.

The department shall consider the following acts as aggressive driving practices:

- Failure to follow established vehicle operation guidelines
- Excessive speed, regardless of response mode
- Following other vehicles too closely
- Racing other emergency vehicles to an emergency incident
- Failure to give other vehicles plentiful time and space to yield the right-of-way
- Use of audible warning devices to scare or intimidate other drivers
- Continued use of audible warning devices when drivers have no room to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, such as an active railroad crossing or congested intersection where neither the emergency vehicle nor other vehicles can maneuver
- Use of PA system to admonish drivers who do not immediately yield the right-of-way