



Dothan Fire Department POLICY	
Policy Name:	Emergency Vehicle Operations
Policy Number:	1
Standard:	NFPA 1002 Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications, current edition
Implementation Date:	April 19, 2019
Date of Last Revision:	April 20, 2021
Authority:	Larry H. Williams, Jr, Fire Chief

I. PURPOSE

To provide a safe and uniformed response by emergency vehicles in compliance with the rules, regulations, and laws of the State of Alabama, the City of Dothan, and the Dothan Fire Department.

II. POLICY

1. All vehicles identified as a part of the Dothan Fire Department fleet shall be operated safely and responsibly at all times.
2. During all responses, Fire Department vehicles shall comply with all Alabama State Laws, the City of Dothan rules and regulations¹, and Department Policy.
3. All current DFD qualified drivers must maintain bi-annual Emergency Vehicle Driver Refresher training. All new DFD members must obtain certifications as outlined in DFD SOGs² prior to responding emergency as the driver of any DFD vehicle.
4. During emergency responses, all Dothan Fire Department vehicles will make a complete stop at negative right-of-way intersections (red lights and stop signs) and assess all moving and non-moving traffic before proceeding through the intersection. Slow down and use caution with any merging or yielding traffic!
5. All vehicles shall respond to alarms and/or incidents at speeds no greater than 10 mph above the posted limit.
6. A minimum of one (1) “Spotter” is required anytime a vehicle is in reverse and when more than one member is assigned to the vehicle. Multiple spotters are encouraged anytime a Dothan Fire Department apparatus is backing or is maneuvering in a constricted area. When multiple spotters are available one (1) spotter should be in front of the vehicle and one (1) spotter at the rear of the vehicle.³

¹ *City of Dothan Employee Handbook*, Part 3. Current edition

² Dothan Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline 500.1 “Career Ladder, Section 12” current edition.

³ *IFSTA Apparatus Operator-Pumper*, Chapter 4. Current edition; and *Dothan Employee Handbook*, Part 3, Section 10. Current edition.

7. When only one member is assigned to a vehicle, the member must be extra cautious and always try to place the vehicle in a position that does not require backing. The driver/operator shall maintain visual clearance on all sides of the vehicle at all times. Anyone driving/operating a vehicle is completely responsible for all aspects of safe driving/operations
8. **Seatbelts will be used at all times!**⁴ The Officer in Charge and the Driver/Operator of the vehicle are responsible for ensuring that all members are belted in their assigned seat prior to the apparatus moving.
9. Any violations of this policy may result in “Major” Discipline.

III. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief reserves the authority to amend, modify or change this policy.

IV. APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is adopted and approved on this 20th day of April, 2021.

(Signature On File)

Larry H. Williams, Jr.

Fire Chief

DOTHAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

⁴ *Dothan Employee Handbook*, Part 3, Section 6. Current edition.