



# Safety Bulletin

## Bridge Safety Reminders

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Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief



This safety bulletin is to serve as a reminder to all drivers and officers when approaching single lane and private bridge crossings that you ensure you are following appropriate VDOT signage, and the bridge has a capacity to hold emergency vehicles.

Our department has unique response areas and will encounter a variety of bridges. The bridges you may encounter will be constructed from a variety of different materials and will also be regulated on weight rating by VDOT. The unit officer and driver to be aware of their response area and be able to navigate their area if they come upon a bridge that is limited to weight or width restrictions. When it comes to restricted bridges there will be appropriate signage posted as you approach these structures. It is the responsibility of driver and officer to be aware of these signs and plan their route accordingly. You may have to deviate from the directions provided on the freedom tablet. Please refer to the below NFPA standard:

**NFPA 1901, standard for automotive fire apparatus, requires a placard in every apparatus that list the vehicle height and weight in feet and tons to emphasize the importance of watching for bridge weight limits.**

We understand that part of our response areas will have private bridges on properties. As a reminder, private bridges are not maintained to a safety standard set forth by the state and may not be suitable for heavy apparatus to be crossing. If this situation occurs the driver and officer will have to adapt and overcome to formulate a safe alternative route.

Questions regarding this safety bulletin should be directed to Lieutenant Shane Wood or Technician II David Wood.