



Safety Bulletin

Securing Equipment in Apparatus

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It is the primary goal of the Health and Safety Committee to ensure the safety of our team members. In line with our commitment to maintaining a safe working environment, it is essential to emphasize the importance of securing equipment in our apparatus to prevent injuries during accidents or sudden movements.

The apparatus we use, including fire apparatus, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles, are designed to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies. However, these vehicles possess inherent risks if equipment is not properly secured. Unsecured equipment may become a projectile during sudden stops, sharp turns, or in the event of a collision. Such incidents can result in severe injuries to personnel as well as other road users.

To minimize the risk of injuries and ensure the safety of everyone involved, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Stow Equipment Correctly:** Ensure that all equipment, including hoses, nozzles, hand tools, and gear, is securely stowed in designated compartments or brackets. Double-check that equipment is properly fastened and will not become dislodged during transit.
2. **Store Loose Items Properly:** Loose items, such as helmets, boots, and personal belongings, should be stored in lockers or designated storage areas. Avoid leaving them on seats, dashboards, or any other surfaces within, on, or around the apparatus.
3. **Secure Portable Equipment:** For equipment that cannot be stored in compartments, utilize appropriate restraining mechanisms, such as straps, cords, or brackets, to prevent movement during transit.
4. **Conduct Routine Inspections:** Regularly inspect the apparatus and its storage compartments to identify any loose or damaged equipment restraints. Promptly repair or replace any faulty mechanisms to ensure reliable securing of equipment.
5. **Secure Compartment Doors:** Ensure that all compartment doors are securely closed and latched. Loose doors can swing open during vehicle operations, potentially causing accidents or injuries.
6. **Exercise Caution during Maneuvers:** During turns, sudden stops, or emergency responses, be mindful of the potential for shifting equipment. Always drive cautiously, taking into account the weight and movement of the load on the vehicle.
7. **Ambulances serve as vital platforms for delivering emergency medical care and transportation.** The equipment we carry, including medical supplies, stretchers, and specifically coolers for storing medications or samples, must be adequately secured to prevent accidents or injuries. Negligence in securing equipment can lead to uncontrolled movement within the ambulance, compromising the safety of everyone involved.

8. Promote Accountability: Encourage all team members to take responsibility for securing equipment. If you notice any unsecured items or faulty restraints, address the issue immediately to mitigate potential risks.

Remember, securing equipment in our apparatus is not only a personal responsibility but also a collective effort to safeguard the well-being of our team. By adhering to these guidelines and remaining vigilant about equipment security, we can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.

Your commitment to safety is vital to the success of our mission and the protection of our team. Let us continue to work together and prioritize the safety of ourselves and those we serve.

Any questions regarding this Safety Bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Natasha Lorenzen.