

Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 604

Apparatus Driver Release

Effective Date: May 1, 2011


Page 1 of 4

Revision Date: October 8, 2020

Forms:

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

Approved By: Tom Marable, President VFRA



PURPOSE

Provide a common minimal standard for driving and operating fire apparatus in Fauquier County.

SCOPE

This procedure applies to all operational personnel within the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management and the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments.

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Driver/Operator – Any persons meeting the current qualifications to drive specified apparatus in each given area (Brush, Pumper/Tanker, Heavy Squad, Aerial/Ladder, Ambulance)
- B. Exception – Any persons released as a Driver/Operator prior to June 1, 2009
- C. Emergency Vehicle Operator Course – Virginia Department of Fire Programs or Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Emergency Operators Course
- D. Violation – Defined by the Code of Virginia
 1. Class A – any violation that normally receives a license suspension from the Department of Motor Vehicles which issued the license.
 2. Class B – any moving violation or Point carrying violation, not considered a Class A violation. Speeding, unlawful lane change, and traveling too fast for conditions are all examples of Class B violations.

Desire to Serve

Ability to Perform

Courage to Act

Apparatus Driver Release		No. 604
Effective Date: May 1, 2011	Revision Date: October 8, 2020	Page 2 of 4

II. PROCEDURES

A. All Driver / Operators must comply at all times with these general requirements:

1. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age to be released as an emergency Driver/Operator on all apparatus.
2. Must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years old to start training process for Ambulance/Brush/Utility Drivers/Operator Release in a non-emergency role.
3. Maintain a valid driver's license.
4. Minimum of three years driving experience.
5. Emergency Vehicle Operators Course in the appropriate class for the vehicle being driven.
6. Completion of an approved agency driver / operator release program.
7. Demonstrate ability to conduct basic vehicle maintenance (check tire pressure, fluid levels, belts, etc)
8. Maintain a medical Physical as deemed appropriate by the Fauquier County Fire and Rescue Association or Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management.
9. A Driver's history check completed annually.
10. All Driving violations by Driver/Operator must be reported within 24hours of receipt of violation
 - a. A Class A moving violation will result in a suspension of driving privileges for a period of eighteen (18) months.
 - b. A combination of two (2) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will result in a written letter from the Chief Officer, or other designated supervisor.

Apparatus Driver Release		No. 604
Effective Date: May 1, 2011	Revision Date: October 8, 2020	Page 3 of 4

- c. A combination of three (3) Class B moving violation convictions and/or chargeable accidents in a three (3) year period will result in a ninety (90) day suspension from driving from the Chief Officer, or other designated supervisor.

III. VEHICLE RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

A. All-Terrain Vehicles/Trailer Units

1. Released Ambulance-Brush-Utility Driver for a minimum of six months
2. 5 hours supervised driving time (must be supervised by released driver)
3. 3 hours driving and pump familiarization (if equipped) with ATV
4. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
5. Satisfactorily complete practical and/or written knowledge test on the functions for the support vehicle

B. Ambulance, Brush, Utility

1. 5 hours supervised driving time (must be supervised by released driver)
2. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
3. Respond a minimum of 5 times to emergency incidents (must be supervised by released driver)
4. Hospital Running Route Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
5. Operational Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher

C. Engine

1. At least 21 years of age
2. Released Ambulance, Brush, Utility Driver/Operator for at least six months (personnel hired as Technician II may petition the Assistant Chief to waive this requirement.)
3. 10 hours supervised driving time (must be supervised by released driver)
4. Respond a minimum of 5 times to emergency incidents (must be supervised by released driver)
5. County Thoroughfares Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
6. Engine Driver/Operator Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
7. Satisfactorily Complete – Test Operational Scenarios
8. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
9. Certification in VDFP Basic Pump Operator / Driver Pump Operator

Apparatus Driver Release		No. 604
Effective Date: May 1, 2011	Revision Date: October 8, 2020	Page 4 of 4

D. Tanker

1. Be released engine driver for at least six months (personnel hired as Technician II may petition the Assistant Chief to waive this requirement.)
2. 10 hours supervised driving time (must be supervised by released driver), one of those hours of supervised drive time must be conducted with an empty water tank.
3. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
4. County Thoroughfares Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
5. Operational Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
6. Certification in VDFP Basic Pump Operator / Driver Pump Operator
7. Certification in VDFP Rural Water Supply

E. Rescue Squad – Hazmat Unit – Incident Support Unit

1. Not been at fault in any accidents while operating county vehicles for a minimum of 12 months.
2. Be a released engine driver for a minimum of six months
3. Signed off on Policy and Procedures page in driving manual
4. 5 hours supervised driving time (Supervised by designated evaluator – released driver or chief’s designee)
5. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
6. Rescue Driver/Operator Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
7. Satisfactorily Complete Rescue Driver/Operator KSA
8. Satisfactorily Complete – Test Operational Scenarios
9. Certification in VDFP and/or NFPA/VAVRS Vehicle Rescue Level 1, HTR Module 1 and 3, or Approved equivalent certifications

F. Aerial Apparatus

1. Not been at fault in any accidents while operating county vehicles for a minimum of 12 months.
2. Be released Engine Driver for a minimum of two years
3. 10 hours supervised driving time (Supervised by designated evaluator – Technician or higher)
4. Perform a weekly check out in accordance with station polices
5. County Thoroughfares Quiz – Must pass with a 90% or higher
6. Satisfactorily Complete – Test Operational Scenarios
7. Certification in VDFP Driver Aerial Operator, HTR Module 1 and 2, VDFP and/or NFPA/VAVRS Rope Rescue Level 1