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Revision #:	



Akron Fire Company, Inc.
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES
 Approved by: Peter West, Fire Chief

700.4
Seatbelt Use

PURPOSE: This policy sets forth the requirement that all firefighters will be seated and belted in all apparatus, while the apparatus is in motion.

SCOPE: This Policy covers all personnel of the fire department.

ENFORCEMENT: Failure to comply will result in progressive discipline in accordance to the constitution and by-laws of the Akron Fire Company Inc.

Policy:

Seatbelts

All persons driving or riding in fire department vehicles shall be seated in approved riding positions with seatbelts or safety restraints fastened at all times when the vehicle is in motion. The driver shall not begin to move the vehicle until all passengers are seated and properly secured. All passengers shall remain seated and secured as long as the vehicle is in motion. Seatbelts shall not be loosened or released while en route to dress or don equipment. Members shall not attempt to mount or dismount from a moving vehicle under any circumstances.

Exception:

A fire department member who is providing direct patient care inside an ambulance shall be permitted to momentarily release the seat belt while the vehicle is in motion – **IF IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE PATIENT CARE**. When the procedure has been completed, the fire department member shall refasten the seat belt. Time without the protection of a seat belt shall be minimized.

Note–National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1500 allows this exception for the ambulance patient compartment.

REFERENCES:

- NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program, 2007 edition
- NFPA 1451, Standard for a Fire Service Vehicle Operations Safety Program, 2007 edition

RESOURCES:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety: www.iafc.org/vehicleSafety

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