



PROCEDURE MANUAL

2-6-71

Fire Services

Driver Licensing

Original Date: June 1, 2011

Revised Date: February 23, 2012

71.01 PURPOSE

To provide specific information and procedures that satisfy the California Department of Motor Vehicles laws governing class A, B and C driver's licenses with firefighter endorsements.

71.02 SCOPE

All Sonoma County Fire paid and volunteer staff.

71.03 POLICY

All drivers of fire department apparatus over 26,000 pounds must be properly licensed by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Driver's licenses may be Class A, B, or C with a firefighter endorsement. A firefighter endorsement is not required for apparatus under 26,000 pounds.

71.04 PROCEDURES

- A. The driver shall have completed one of two training processes. The Sonoma County Driver task book as described in B. of this procedure. **OR** the Driver /Operator 1A **AND** the Sonoma County Fire Driver Training program which complies with NFPA 1002, and the California Vehicle Code Section 12804.11. Much of the Sonoma County Fire, Driver Training task book may be signed off during the Driver Operator 1A class but the student shall also document at least 6 hours of training that includes the portions of the task book not included in the Driver 1A curriculum.
 - a. In Order to take Driver 1A, the student shall complete a prerequisite driver task form provided by Class instructor.
- B. The Sonoma County Training Program includes a cognitive portion of at least 16 hours and a manipulative portion of at least 14 hours. The Training must be documented in a task book format and recorded into the training database.
- C. A driving test must be documented in the drivers log including all of the requirements outlined in NFPA 1002 4.3.1 (task book page 5). A County Fire certified instructor or other approved instructor shall administer this supervised driving and the skills test.
- D. Once completed the task book shall be submitted to the County Fire Training Officer.

- E. The driver is not required to have a permit if, for training purposes only and during a non-emergency, the driver is driving under the direct supervision of a fire department employee who is properly licensed to operate the equipment and is authorized by the department to provide training.
- F. Driver Training shall be conducted by a person who meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. California Certified Fire Instructor certified to teach Driver 1A.
 - i. **OR all of the following:**
 - b. 5 years experience as an emergency vehicle operator, three of which must be at the rank of engineer or higher.
 - c. Possesses a valid California Commercial class A or B license.
 - d. Is certified as a qualified training instructor by the California State Fire Marshal's Office, the federal government, or a county training officers association.
- G. The driver applicant must provide proof of current employment as a firefighter or registration as a volunteer firefighter and evidence of fire equipment operation training by providing a letter from the chief of the fire department to the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). County Fire will provide this letter to the applicant to take with him or her to the DMV.
- H. The driver must pass a written DMV exam.
- I. Upon successful completion of the written test, the DMV will provide a DL88 card. This card must be completed and signed by the Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services Department Chief or his designee. The DL 88 card shall be carried by the driver when operating a fire fighting vehicle.
- J. The driver shall submit proof of medical examination on a form approved by the DMV (Form DL 546A for Class C completed by the driver applicant and Form DL51 completed by a physician for Commercial Class A and B).
- K. The medical examination report (DL546A) is valid for 2 years for Class C.
- L. The medical report (DL51) shall be valid for 4 years for Commercial Class A and B drivers.
- M. All drivers of fire department equipment must participate in the Sonoma County Fire DMV pull notice program.

- N. Drivers that elect to maintain a Commercial Class A or B license must meet all of the DMV requirements for that classification.
- O. Currently licensed drivers holding a Class B non-commercial license with a firefighter endorsement must be either upgraded to a Commercial Class B with a firefighter endorsement or downgraded to a class C with a firefighter endorsement upon license renewal. Applicants must provide a valid medical report (DL51 or DL 546A) at the time of application
- P. Drivers may not operate fire department vehicles if they have violations (suspensions, revocations, convictions, failures to appear, accidents, or any other action taken against the driving privileges or certificate).
- Q. The VFC Fire Chief must approve of the driving privileges before a driver may operate any apparatus.
- R. Driving privileges may be suspended by the VFC Chief and/or the County Fire Operations Chief for failing to exercise good judgment and/or failure to follow all of the driving rules and regulations.

71.05 REFERENCES

California Vehicle Code 12804.11
California Assembly Bill 1648 and 82
California Commercial Driver Handbook
NFPA 1002
DMV Physician's Health Report Form 546A
Sonoma County Fire SOP 2-6-13
49 CFR 391.41 (Physical Requirements)
IFSTA 2nd Edition Driver/Operator Handbook