



Keeping you Knowledgeable, Safe, and in Compliance!

Ernest A. Emerson Fire Protection Resource Library

A Volume From the Library



Being Safe on the Road is Everyone's Responsibility

First responders need to use basic defensive driving skills to get to their destination safely so they can save lives. Too many firefighters have been injured or killed on their way to, or from, an emergency scene. Avoid these not uncommon tragedies by focusing your team on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Life Safety "Initiative #11: Emergency (Vehicle) Response Safety."

Make sure your team, *meaning everyone on an apparatus*, is watching the road and that the drivers are practicing safe emergency and non-emergency maneuvers.

The Emerson Library has many resources which can teach your drivers safe practices. Search our Audio Visual [catalog](#) for the subjects "Driving," "Apparatus," and "Driver/Operator" for relevant items. Check out the great video below for a good start:

VEHICLE DRIVING OPERATIONS: PART 1-3
AV06-2037 Length: 1:30:00 Format: DVD Author: FETN
In 2003 more firefighters died in the line of duty while driving to and from calls than died from fighting fires. Part 1 of this 3 part series on Vehicle Driving Operations presents the results of three major studies that have been done on apparatus accidents that document the issues and problems. The learning objectives are: to understand the severity of fire apparatus incidents, to reference at least three national studies of fire apparatus incidents and have an understanding of their recommendations, and to identify five impact areas on the fire department and the community when a fatality occurs from a fire apparatus incident. In Part 2, the learning objectives are: for emergency personnel to be aware of the need to avoid excessive speed during an emergency response, to demonstrate more effective methods and procedures to use during an emergency response to increase safety, and to better understand the typical motorist and his lack of hearing and seeing emergency response vehicles in typical situations. In Part 3 the learning objectives are: to be aware of the 15 procedures and recommended policies that an emergency agency should establish and implement to improve emergency vehicle driving safety. (2006)

The NFFF also provides free links to [relevant articles](#) and [resources](#) on this topic for your reference and education.

Wondering what your policy should be when it comes to **Code 1 vs. Code 3** responding? Check out these online articles:

- [Response to Fires](#) (Fire Engineering, 2008)
- [Code 3 Driving](#) (Fire Engineering, 2005)

For assistance in choosing training materials, or to make recommendations for additions to the library, please contact Laura Bucaro, the commission librarian at (512) 936-3833, via e-mail at laura.bucaro@tcfp.state.tx.us, or visit the [Emerson Library](#) at the commission's headquarters facility during regular business hours.

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The easiest way to save the lives of your teammates is to make sure everyone wears their seatbelts.

Take the **INTERNATIONAL SEATBELT PLEDGE**

To keep your department safe.

Questions, Comments, or to be removed from this distribution list email laura.bucaro@tcfp.state.tx.us or call 512-936-3833. [Emerson Library](#): 1701 N. Congress Ave, Suite 9-100, Austin, TX 78701. PO Box 2286, Austin, TX 78768-2286.