

Emergency Vehicle Inspections, Testing, Repair and Maintenance

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the inspection, testing, repair and maintenance responsibilities of members with regard to district authorized emergency vehicles. Vehicles and firefighting apparatus shall comply with all regulations specified in Illinois law and/or NFPA 1002, 2009 edition. Inspections also ensure that vehicles and firefighting apparatus are properly equipped, maintained and refueled, and present a professional appearance.

702.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Authorized emergency vehicle - Vehicles of the fire department including ambulances (625 ICLS 5/1-105).

Firefighting apparatus - Vehicles designed for the purpose of firefighting. This includes pumpers, ladder trucks and aerial devices, tiller trucks, wildland firefighting vehicles, aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF) vehicles and mobile water supply (water tender) units.

In-reserve - Any vehicle or firefighting apparatus that, while not currently staffed, is ready for service or deployment as needed, regardless of whether it is fully equipped with tools and equipment.

In-service - Any vehicle or firefighting apparatus that is either staffed or cross-staffed by members of the Fire Operations Division or that is pre-positioned to be readily available to on-duty Fire Operations personnel for calls for service (e.g., airport rescue, firefighting apparatus).

Rescue vehicles – Emergency vehicles designed, staffed and equipped to respond to and assist with the medical emergencies of individuals suffering from injury or illness.

Staff response vehicles - Staff vehicles designed to respond to emergencies carrying trained firefighting and medical members and equipment for command and control of major emergency situations.

702.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Richmond Township Fire Protection District that all vehicles and apparatus comply with the applicable federal and state vehicle operating and safety criteria. All vehicles and apparatus should be inspected daily, including in-service and in-reserve apparatus. Vehicles and apparatus that are out-of-service for testing, maintenance or repair need not be inspected until they are returned to service or released to in-reserve status.

702.3 PROCEDURE

The Fire Chief shall designate adequate personnel and responsibilities to ensure that all authorized emergency vehicles, including firefighting apparatus, ambulances, rescue vehicles,

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staff response vehicles and other vehicles of the Richmond Township Fire Protection District, are properly equipped, maintained, serviced and refueled, and present a professional appearance.

702.3.1 AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE DAILY INSPECTIONS

Operators should be responsible for conducting a daily inspection of all authorized emergency vehicles that has been established by the District and includes all of the items and provisions identified to ensure the safe operational status of the vehicles. An inspection list is detailed in the applicable sections of NFPA 1002, 2009 edition. The District daily inspection list shall be approved by the Fire Chief.

When an authorized emergency vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of a repair that affects safe operation, the Person In Charge (PIC) shall be immediately notified. Based on the determination of the Person In Charge (PIC), if the vehicle cannot be used in a safe manner, it shall be immediately removed from service.

A vehicle shall be considered unsafe and placed out of service if deficiencies are detected in one or more of the following areas:

- Brake system
- Cab and/or body mounting
- Steering
- Door latches
- Suspension
- Seat belts
- Wheels or tires
- Windshield, windshield wipers or defroster
- Throttle
- Transmission or driveline

Other deficiencies may or may not require a vehicle to be placed out of service. Any safety-related deficiency that does not require the vehicle to be taken out of service shall be repaired as quickly as possible.

Members also are responsible for completing a monthly inspection and equipment inventory for each assigned vehicle and documenting it on the appropriate inspection form. When completed, the form should be forwarded to the Division Chief in the member's chain of command.

All repairs and preventive maintenance to firefighting apparatus shall be made by personnel deemed qualified by the registered owner of the fire apparatus. Annual inspections and service tests required for aerial devices shall be performed by a competent person according to the recommendations of NFPA 1914, 1991 edition.

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The District shall maintain a written record of inspections for each vehicle or apparatus using the appropriate inspection form for the vehicle type. Completed inspection forms should be forwarded to the Fire Operations Division Chief and retained by the District based on established records retention schedules.