



FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU

**WASHINGTON STATE
FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE
ACCIDENT PREVENTION
(EVAP)
STANDARD**

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In accordance with the Fire Protection Master Plan of 1991, the Fire Protection Policy Board created the Certification and Accreditation Guideline Committee. Fire service personnel were appointed and delegated with the responsibility of preparing and recommending appropriate fire service occupational Performance Qualification Standards.

**WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY VEHICLE
ACCIDENT PREVENTION (EVAP) STANDARD**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
Chapter 1	Administration/Definitions	1-4
Chapter 2	Emergency Vehicle Driver-General Requirements	5-6
Appendix A	Information	7
Appendix B	Suggested Driving Courses	8

CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

- 1-1** **Scope.** This standard identifies the minimum requirements for driver/operators of fire department emergency apparatus to meet the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Exemption, through Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention (EVAP) Training.
- 1-2** **Purpose.** The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum training requirements to meet the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Exemption as specified in RCW 46.25.050, (b) (I).
- 1-2.1 It is not the intent of this standard to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements.
- 1-2.2 This standard shall cover the requirements for driver/operators of all fire department emergency apparatus weighing more than 26,000 lbs (GVWR); buses designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver; and vehicles required to be identified by placard for transporting hazardous materials.
- 1-3** **Administrative.**
- 1-3.1 Local jurisdictions, who choose to adopt this standard rather than have their driver/operators obtain a commercial driver's license, shall file a letter with the State Fire Marshal verifying that this standard has been officially adopted.
- 1-3.2 Fire Chiefs in jurisdictions that adopt this standard shall approve the EVAP training program used in their department/district by ensuring that the program meets the criteria specified in this standard.
- 1-3.3 All course curriculum intended to meet the requirements for the commercial driver license exemption may be submitted to the Fire Protection Bureau and the Fire Protection Policy Board for review and approval.
- 1-3.4 Local jurisdictions, departments, districts, organizations, or persons providing EVAP training shall issue certificates of training to fire service personnel, who have successfully completed the training.
RCW 46.25.050, (b) (ii).
- 1-3.5 Local jurisdictions, departments, districts, organizations, or persons providing accredited EVAP training shall issue certificates of training that display the accreditation number assigned by the Fire Protection Bureau.
- 1-3.6 Fire department apparatus driver/operators shall be of minimum age, possess a valid drivers license and comply with state laws.

- 1-3.7 Fire department driver/operators shall meet medical requirements set by the authority having jurisdiction to perform the duties of vehicle operator.
- 1-3.8 All firefighters who drive fire department apparatus in excess of 26,000 lbs; buses designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver; or vehicles required to be identified by placard for transporting hazardous materials, shall meet the objectives specified in Chapter 2.
- 1-3.9 Recertification of the CDL exemption can be accomplished by a minimum of two hours per year of documented driving, that meets the performance objectives of 2-3.1, and is evaluated by an approved evaluator; or by completion of the entire approved driver training program on a four year cycle.
- 1-3.10 Performance requirements defined by this standard shall be instructed and evaluated by individuals approved by the authority having jurisdiction.
- 1-3.11 Performance requirements need not be mastered in the order in which they appear.
- 1-3.12 Performance requirements of Chapters 2 shall be performed utilizing apparatus of similar type, weight, wheelbase, and function as that expected to be operated in the performance of the driver/operator's normal duties.

1-4* Definitions.

For the purpose of this standard, the following terms shall have the meanings given below:

Adverse Driving Conditions. Any driving condition other than daylight, clear weather, dry pavement, and normal traffic flow.

Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

Authority Having Jurisdiction. The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment or procedures.

Note: The phrase “authority having jurisdiction” is used in performance qualification documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and “approved” agencies vary as do their responsibilities.

Define. To supply a description, orally, or in writing, that gives the precise meaning of essential qualities.

Demonstrate. To show by actual use, illustration, simulation, or explanation.

Driver/Operator. Driver/operator, the term operator and the term driver, as used herein, means every person who is in actual physical control of an authorized emergency vehicle. WAC 296-305-01505, 296-305-01505, 204-36-020 (1).

Explain. To offer reasons for, or a cause of.

Emergency Vehicle. Any vehicle of any fire department, police department, sheriff's office, coroner, prosecuting attorney, Washington State Patrol, ambulance service, public or private, which need not be classified, registered or authorized by the Washington State Patrol, or any other vehicle authorized in writing by the Washington State Patrol.
RCW 46.04.040.

Fire Apparatus. A fire department emergency vehicle used for rescue, fire suppression, or other specialized functions.

Fire Department. The agency that provides fire suppression and other fire related services.

GVWR. Manufacturers Gross Vehicle Weight Rating.

Identify. To physically select, indicate, or explain verbally or in writing, using acceptable and recognizable terms, references, or other professional resources.

Local Jurisdiction. Any entity within the state having jurisdiction over, and legally responsible for the provision and operation of a fire department or district.

May. Used to state a permissive use or an alternate method to a specified requirement.

Minimum Age. Minimum age is 18 years of age, or consistent with Washington State Department of Licensing Commercial Driver's License requirements.

Objective. Outcome achieved through the application of skill and/or knowledge, that can be observed or measured.

Off-Road Use. Use of fire department vehicles in areas where there is a need to traverse steep terrain or to cross natural hazards on or protruding from the ground.

Operate. The term operate, as used herein, is the driving or moving by any operator or driver upon a public highway of any vehicle that is equipped or has attached thereon any equipment, the installation of which requires an authorized emergency vehicle permit, whether or not the emergency equipment is activated.
WAC 296-305-01505, 296-305-01505, 204-36-020 (2)

Performance Requirement. An objective that is achieved through the attainment of a skill, knowledge, or both, which can be observed or measured.

Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

CHAPTER 2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2-1 General.** Prior to operating fire department apparatus, the driver/operator shall meet the performance requirements defined in Sections 2-2 through 2-3, and have knowledge and skills in the following general areas:
- a. The effects on vehicle control of braking reaction time, load factors, general steering reactions, speed, and centrifugal force, and applicable laws and regulations.
 - b. Safe apparatus operation and operation of passenger restraint devices.
 - c. Identification and operation of automotive gauges and proper operation limits.
 - d. Operation of apparatus controls.
 - e. Apparatus dimensions and turning characteristics.
 - f. Use of mirrors.
 - g. Judgment of apparatus clearances, front and back, height, and width.
 - h. Principles of skid avoidance, night driving, off road use, shifting and gear patterns, negotiating railroad crossings and draw bridges, and weight and height limitations for both roads and bridges.
 - i. Safe apparatus operation during emergency and non emergency conditions, operation under adverse environmental or driving surface conditions.

2-2 Preventive Maintenance.

- 2-2.1*** Perform routine tests, inspections, and servicing functions on the specified systems and components listed below as directed by the authority having jurisdiction, given a fire department apparatus and its manufacturer's specifications, so that the operational status of the apparatus is verified.
- a. Battery(ies)
 - b. Braking system
 - c. Coolant system
 - d. Electrical system
 - e. Fuel
 - f. Hydraulic fluids
 - g. Lubrication
 - h. Oil
 - i. Tires
 - j. Steering system
 - k. Belts
 - i. Tools, appliances, and equipment.
- 2-2.2** Document the routine tests, inspections, and servicing functions as directed by the authority having jurisdiction, given maintenance and inspection forms, so that all items are checked for proper operation and deficiencies are reported.

2-3 Driving/Operating.

- 2-3.1 Demonstrate driving/operating skills on a driving skills course similar to those suggested in appendix B.
- 2-3.2 Operate a fire department apparatus, given a pre-determined route on a public way, or a pre-designated course approved by the authority having jurisdiction, that incorporates the maneuvers and features specified below, and which the driver/operator is expected to encounter during normal operations. The apparatus must be safely operated in compliance with all applicable state and local laws, departmental rules and regulations. The authority having jurisdiction is responsible for the evaluation/certification of this portion of this standard.
- a. 4 left and 4 right turns
 - b. 2 straight sections of urban business street or a 2-lane rural road approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) in length
 - c. 3 through-intersections and 3 intersections where a stop has to be made
 - d. 1 railroad crossing (actual or simulated)
 - e. 2 curves, left and right
 - f. 1 entry and exit on a limited access roadway (actual or simulated)
 - g. 2 lane changes
 - h. 2 passing maneuvers
 - i. 1 downgrade drive
 - j. 1 upgrade drive
 - k. 1 underpass, low clearance or warning sign (actual or simulated).
 - l. 2 backing maneuvers, straight and angled.
- 2-3.3 Use automotive gauges and controls, given a fire department apparatus and manufacturer's specifications.
- 2-3.4 Operate a fire department apparatus using defensive driving concepts under both emergency and non-emergency conditions and explain the adverse effects of the following:
- a. fatigue
 - b. drugs and alcohol
 - c. poor vision
- 2-3.5 Operate all systems and equipment on an apparatus, given manufacturers specifications and instructions and departmental policies and procedures for the systems and equipment, so each system or piece of equipment is operated in accordance with applicable instructions and policies.

APPENDIX A

This Appendix is not a part of the requirements of this Washington State document, but is included for information purposes only.

- A-1-3 Action verbs used in the performance requirements in this document are based on the first definition of the verb found in Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language.

- A-2-2.1 Routine tests, inspections, and servicing functions should be performed on a daily, weekly, monthly, or other periodic basis as determined by departmental policy. The specifications provided by the manufacturer for these functions should be followed.

Appendix B

Suggested Driving Courses