

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Category: Apparatus & Driving

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Title: General Driving Guidelines

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Policy: 09-203

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PURPOSE

To establish the requirements and expectations for personnel who drive North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles.

SAFETY CONCERN

The personnel driving North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles shall have the proper license and certifications needed to drive within the laws of the State of Michigan, and North Berrien Fire Rescue Department Policies.

GUIDELINE

All members are expected to complete the Fire Service Vehicle Operators course before being authorized to drive North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles in emergency situations. Additionally, all drivers are required to drive each apparatus (except pool vehicles) they may be expected to drive prior to being authorized to function as a driver.

Expectations while driving North Berrien Fire Rescue Department apparatus:

- Seatbelt must be worn at all times while vehicle is in motion
- Driving apparatus with headlights operating at all times is required on all vehicles except pool vehicles.
- All vehicles should be backed into parking spaces when possible.
- All members shall exercise defensive driving techniques.
- All members shall operate in a safe and courteous manner.
- All members shall follow the laws of Michigan and North Berrien Fire Rescue Department Policies while operating North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles and apparatus.
- If apparatus is equipped with wheel chocks, the engineer shall place wheel chocks when leaving the cab unattended.

Fire Apparatus

All drivers shall have a valid license driver's license. Prior to North Berrien Fire Rescue Department members being allowed to operate as a Fire Apparatus Driver, they must have certification by North Berrien Fire Rescue Department as a Fire Apparatus Driver. When a fire apparatus is parked, the air brake should be set. As an additional safety precaution the Fire Apparatus Engineer is responsible to replace and remove wheel chocks as needed.