

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Category: Apparatus & Driving

Issued: 2010, 01 Updated:

Title: Maximum Speed

OPERATIONAL POLICIES

Policy: 09-205

Issued By: F/C Spiegel

PURPOSE

When responding to emergencies, arriving on the scene in a timely fashion is critical. To arrive safely, vehicles will obey traffic signals and posted speed limits.

SAFETY CONCERN

While speed is an important factor in emergency response, arriving safely and efficiently is equally important. An emergency response affects the driving public and others and requires due diligence on the part of the driver.

GUIDELINE

Vehicles owned and operated by the North Berrien Fire Rescue Department are to be driven within posted speed limits and according to all other applicable laws. This includes responding to emergency calls, returning from emergency calls, and at all other times. The use of the vehicle's emergency lights and siren should provide a clear lane of traffic for the vehicle to maneuver for responding to most all emergencies.

PERSONAL VEHICLES

As a volunteer / paid on call department an emergency response typically starts from locations outside of the fire stations where personnel respond to the fire stations, don personal protective equipment, access the North Berrien Fire Rescue Department apparatus and respond to the emergency. Vehicles used by the North Berrien Fire Rescue Department members may be equipped with red lights and sirens in accordance with North Berrien Fire Rescue Department policy and in compliance with local and state laws. Personal vehicles that have been authorized by the Fire Chief or his designee may use their lights and sirens to respond to the fire stations or emergency incident locations for "emergency response calls" based upon the North Berrien Fire Rescue Department response matrix.

The maximum speed for responding in a personal vehicle is limited by the posted speed of the roadway. **No exceptions are granted for the use of excessive speed in personal vehicles above the posted limit.** Personal vehicles will slow sufficiently to ensure traffic is allowed to clear and intersections are safe to cross.

Special concerns should be given to the following factors that may affect driving conditions; slippery road conditions, heavy or congested traffic conditions, intersection approaches, inclement weather, poor visibility, road surface, time of day, sharp curves, and all other conditions are to be considered during all emergency responses.

NORTH BERRIEN FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS SPEED LIMITS

In addition to posted speed limits, additional restrictions for North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles are imposed.

Apparatus 41-21, 41-22, 41-23, 41-60, 41-71, 41-72, Hovercraft trailer: Posted speed limits with a maximum speed not to exceed 65mph. Country lane roadways of limited width and limited shoulders have a maximum speed not to exceed the posted limit.

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Apparatus 41-30, 41-31: Posted speed limits with a maximum speed not to exceed 55mph. Country lane roadways of limited width and limited shoulders have a maximum speed no to exceed 45mph.

Apparatus 41-24, 41-32, 41-70: Posted speed limits with a maximum speed not to exceed 45mph.

An exception to the above is limited to true, life threatening situations where the first due vehicle responding to the call may change the outcome of the emergency. In such situations a maximum of 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit may be authorized by the OIC. All due caution is to be practiced while responding over the posted speed limit in these rare cases.

Special concerns should be given to the following factors that may affect driving conditions; slippery road conditions, heavy or congested traffic conditions, intersection approaches, inclement weather, poor visibility, road surface, time of day, sharp curves, and all other conditions are to be considered during all emergency responses.

All other policies are to be adhered to while responding to, returning from, and at all times while driving North Berrien Fire Rescue Department vehicles.