



El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority

Policy Subject Matter: **Emergency Vehicle Driver/Operator Guidelines**
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I. Policy:

The El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority shall operate its ambulances with firefighter paramedics/EMT's who are selected based on their maturity, appreciation of public safety, their ability to satisfactorily complete an emergency vehicle operations course and have a desire for continued professional development.

II. Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the selection of ambulance drivers, the design of emergency vehicle operations training curriculums and ongoing professional development.

III. Procedure:

A comprehensive emergency vehicle operations program includes several key elements and those include driver selection criteria, health, experience, education and continued professional development. To achieve these key elements the following guidelines have been established.

1. Driver selection criteria:

- a. Drivers must be over the age of 18.
- b. Have demonstrated experience and maturity through a driving record that is free of significant and repeated traffic violations.
- c. Are in sound physical health.

2. Driver training and education:

- a. Successful completion of a recognized emergency vehicle operations program which includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. A minimum of four hours of classroom training concentrating on defensive driving, legal aspects of emergency vehicle operations, physical dynamics and review of departmental emergency vehicle response guidelines.
 - ii. Four hours on an emergency vehicle operations course which may include, but is not limited to, a skid pan exercise, lane changing, parking, left and right emergency turns, backing and vehicle/object avoidance.
 - iii. Thirty (30) hours of documented behind-the-wheel training and evaluation under the supervision of a field training officer.

3. Professional development:

- a. Annual review of driver training performance and DMV record check.
- b. Annual legal update of additions and changes to the California Vehicle Code and other applicable codes.
- c. As deemed appropriate, taking corrective action of an employee found "at fault" for an on-duty traffic collision.