

# SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Series 700

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Apparatus Assignments and Operation</b>	<b>701</b>
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Department Operations</b>	<b>7/2017</b>

## Fire apparatus assignments

### Engine 17

- Shall respond as primary apparatus to all calls.
- On structure fire calls.
  - Will stage at the nearest hydrant.
  - Will respond as needed, leaving room for repositioning units.
- Shall carry LDH (5") and 3" to supply itself and Ladder 17.

### Pumper 17

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### Brush 17

- Shall respond to all fires and personal injury accidents.
- Will be prepared to respond as a pumper for firefighting operations in the event that either of the other units is out of service.
- While in reserve it shall be loaded with 2.5" hose and extra appliances and equipment in readiness or support.
- Will respond to grass fires.

### Squad 17

- Response to all medicals and personal injury accidents.

## Driving Fire Apparatus

- **State Law:**  
When responding to calls for service, all driving is to be in accordance with the Michigan Vehicle Code, Public Act 300.
- **Warning Devices:**  
The driver of any fire apparatus will turn on all emergency lights and headlights while responding to an emergency. The siren shall be used to give adequate warning to other drivers and pedestrians. Remember, you are asking for permission to have the right-of-way while responding with lights and sirens.
- **Speed Limit:**  
The driver may exceed the posted speed limit in accordance with Public Act 300, so long as life and property are not endangered and in a reasonable prudent manner.
- **Direction of Movement (travel):**  
The driver may disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions provided the driver does not endanger life or property.
- **Intersections:**  
Any intersection requires prudent action by the driver. The following steps should be taken:
  - Do not rely on warning devices to clear traffic.
  - Scan the intersection for possible hazards (right turns on red, pedestrians, fast-moving vehicles, etc.)
  - Begin to slow down well before reaching the intersection and cover the brake pedal with the driver's foot; continue to scan in all four directions (left, right, front, back).
  - Change the siren cadence not less than 200' from intersection.
  - Scan intersection for possible passing options (pass on right, left, wait, etc.); avoid using the opposing lane of traffic if at all possible.
  - Establish eye contact with other vehicle drivers.
  - Confirm all other vehicles are stopped.
  - Account for traffic one lane at a time, treating each lane of traffic as a separate intersection
- **Passing Private Vehicles:**  
Drivers should always pass other vehicles on the left side of the vehicle being passed because state law instructs other vehicles to yield to the right for emergency vehicles. When conditions only allow for passing on the right, it must be done with extreme caution.
- **Passing Emergency Vehicles:**  
An apparatus driver can only pass another emergency vehicle if the driver receives permission of the vehicle being passed. It must be accomplished cautiously.

- **Passing School Buses:**  
**Emergency vehicles must never pass a school bus while the bus' red flashing lights are illuminated.** You must come to a complete stop and proceed with caution after the bus driver gives permission to do so.
- **Following Emergency Vehicles:**  
Extreme caution should be used when following other emergency vehicles. Distance between vehicles should be more than the driver estimated will be needed to stop safely. Remember: Fire vehicles can weigh more than 20 tons.
- **Crossing the Center Line:**  
Crossing the center line or using the left turn lane is permitted when all normal lanes are blocked. Drivers must be sure that all on-coming traffic lanes and turning lanes are stopped. In this case, drivers must proceed slow enough to stop to avoid vehicles turning left in front and also on-coming vehicles making right turns into your path of travel.
- **Reducing Speed:**  
Apparatus drivers must reduce their speed appropriately due to poor weather or other conditions and when passing through school zones.
- **Due Regard:**  
Nothing in the department's Personnel Policy Manual or the Springfield Personnel Policy shall relieve the driver of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons. Nor shall it protect the driver from the consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.
- **Addition personnel in fire apparatus:**  
All persons riding on fire apparatus is to be seated in approved riding positions and be secured to the vehicle by seat belts whenever the vehicle is in motion.
- **Off-Road Travel:**  
When vehicles are taken off the road:
  - The driver should evaluate the need for off road use.
  - Identify potential hazards (firmness of soil, type of soil, septic tanks and other underground hazards).
  - Establish best route.
  - No exterior passengers.
- **Back-up Guide:**  
When it is necessary to back up any fire apparatus, the driver shall proceed using one of the two following measures:
  - Before any vehicle is put into reverse and backed up, a spotter is put in place near the rear of the vehicle. The spotter should be safely positioned so that the driver can see them at all times. If at any time the driver loses sight of the spotter, they shall stop the vehicle immediately until the spotter makes them visible again.
  - If conditions exist that make the use of a spotter impossible, all drivers, before attempting to back up any vehicle, shall make a circle of safety to see that: no person or

persons are directly behind the vehicle or in its intended path of travel; all equipment is secured and all compartment doors are securely closed; and any physical obstructions are moved out of the way. The driver should also note all potential obstructions in the intended path of travel.

### **Apparatus & Equipment Readiness**

The readiness of the equipment and the apparatus on returning from on alarm in preparation for service.

### **Station Return**

- Engine shutdown and exhaust ventilation procedure:
  - Allow the apparatus to cool down for 3 to 5 minutes outside the station.
  - Drive the apparatus into the station.
  - Turn the motor off.
  - Attach the vent hose to the exhaust pipe.  
**Note:** The apparatus motor should not be running while hooked up to the Plymovent exhaust system during apparatus maintenance. If you need to run the motor, the apparatus must be parked outside the building.
- After any damage to fire department vehicles or equipment, the engineer will submit a report that explains the circumstances. This report will be turned in to the fire chief and appropriate officer as soon as possible.
- The engineer shall check to insure all emergency lighting switches, including the mast switch, have been shut off. The engineer also will make sure all equipment has been cleaned and returned to the proper apparatus.
- Do not connect the 110VAC power cord until the engine has stopped and the battery switch has been turned off (reduces possibility of battery conditioner damage).
- The engineer should also make sure that all paperwork is completed and placed in the proper areas. This includes apparatus maintenance reports and hydrant logs.

### **Fueling of Apparatus**

- All apparatus with  $\frac{3}{4}$  tank or less of fuel are to be filled.
- Any generators or other equipment used must be refilled.
- When fueling apparatus:
  - Gloves and safety glasses are recommended during fueling operation.
  - The proper forms and/or fuel log must be completed.
  - Vehicle should not be left unattended when refueling.
  - **NO SMOKING** while fueling operation.