



# EXECUTIVE REGULATION

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission

No.: 41-89AMII

Effective Date:

May 23, 1991

TITLE: SAFETY WHILE ON APPARATUS

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Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission Regulation on:

## SAFETY WHILE ON APPARATUS

Issued by: Fire and Rescue Commission  
Regulation No. 41-89AMII

Authority: Code Section 21-4B(e)

Supersedes: Regulation 41-89AM

Council Review: Method (2) under Code Section 2A-15

Effective Date: May 23, 1991

- SUMMARY:** This proposed regulation establishes the Fire and Rescue Commission's safety policy requiring that all fire and rescue personnel wear protective clothing and use safety devices while driving, riding, or operating fire and rescue apparatus. The regulation also prohibits standing on apparatus while it is moving, except under certain conditions, including ceremonial occasions and specific training purposes.
- DEADLINES:** Montgomery County Register Comment: March 1, 1991  
Montgomery County Fire Board Comment: March 1, 1991  
Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services Comment: March 1, 1991  
Fire and Rescue Corporations Comment: March 1, 1991
- ADDRESS:** All comments pertaining to the proposed regulation must be sent to Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.
- STAFF:** For further information, you may contact Steve Davis, Executive Director, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission, on 217-2461.
- BACKGROUND:** Responding to emergency incidents exposes drivers, riders, and operators of emergency apparatus to considerable risk of personal injury. Wearing protective clothing and using safety devices reduces the risk of injury to fire and rescue personnel. This regulation requires that, with certain exceptions, personnel must be seated and must use all available safety devices to minimize the risk of injury while driving, operating, or riding in fire or rescue apparatus.



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## Sec. 1. Purpose.

To establish a safety procedure which all personnel must follow consistently while driving, riding, or operating fire or rescue apparatus in order to reduce the risk of accidents and personal injury.

## Sec. 2. Applicability.

This procedure applies to all on-duty fire, rescue, and emergency medical service personnel, who are driving, riding, or operating apparatus. Personnel who drive or ride in command vehicles, cars, ambulances, medic units, utility trucks, or canteen vehicles are excluded from the requirement to wear protective clothing while responding to incidents.

## Sec. 3. Definitions.

- (a) Apparatus. All fire and rescue vehicles.
- (b) Corporation. A fire or rescue corporation established in the County, authorized to provide fire, rescue, or emergency medical services.
- (c) Department. Department of Fire and Rescue Services.
- (d) Partially protected position. A seated riding position equipped with a seat belt in partially enclosed or open cab apparatus, including open tiller position, bucket, and jump seat.
- (e) Personnel. All on-duty fire, rescue and emergency medical service personnel, including career, volunteer, and County Merit System employees.
- (f) Protected position. A fully enclosed seated riding position equipped with a seatbelt in a fire or rescue vehicle.
- (g) Protective clothing. Turnout gear, consisting of, at a minimum, helmet, turnout coat, turnout pants, and boots.
- (h) Safety device. A bar, chain, gate, or seat belt which is part of or attached to the apparatus and can be used to secure personnel while they are riding or driving the vehicles.

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- (i) Unprotected position. A riding position which is not a protected position or partially protected position, including the sideboard and backstep of apparatus.

**Sec. 4. Policy Statement.**

- (a) It is the policy of the Fire and Rescue Commission to ensure the safety of all personnel while riding, driving, or operating fire and rescue apparatus. In order to implement this policy, the Commission is establishing safety procedures and requiring that they be complied with consistently.
- (b) Riding Backstep Prohibited. Riding on backsteps or in any other exposed position and standing while riding are prohibited. However, in controlled circumstances during parades and funeral processions and for tiller driver training, or in extreme circumstances in which there is no alternative, the Director of the Department or the Corporation Chief may permit personnel to ride on the back step of a vehicle, or in an exposed position, or while standing. When personnel ride on the back step or in an exposed position or while standing, protective clothing must be worn, except during parades and funeral processions. In all riding situations, all available safety devices must be used.

**Sec. 5. Procedure.**

- (a) When proceeding to any emergency incident:
- (1) Personnel must not ride apparatus in unprotected positions.
  - (2) All personnel riding apparatus in protected or partially protected positions must be seated and secure all available safety devices.
  - (3) With the exception of drivers and as indicated in Section 2, personnel riding apparatus in partially protected positions must wear full protective clothing.



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- (4) Personnel riding or operating fire and rescue apparatus in partially protected positions must wear helmets with chin straps down. Personnel riding in protected positions are exempt from this requirement.
- (5) Personnel riding in cabs or tiller seats that are not enclosed must use eye protection.
- (b) When proceeding to a routine incident or other activity not requiring emergency response, personnel may not ride apparatus while standing or while in an unprotected position and all personnel riding in protected or partially protected positions must be seated and secure all available safety devices.
- (c) During parades and funeral processions, each intersection along the ceremonial route must be secured against cross traffic by prior arrangement with appropriate police departments or with Corporation or Department personnel during the time that apparatus is in the intersection. As an additional safeguard, the procession coordinator is responsible for arranging and verifying that the route has been secured before the procession begins. If the route cannot be secured, personnel must not stand or ride in unprotected positions.
  - (1) All vehicles carrying personnel in unprotected positions must be equipped with appropriately placed handholds; personnel must use these handholds while the vehicle is in motion during the procession.
  - (2) Vehicles carrying personnel in unprotected positions may travel only in a forward direction, and at a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour.
  - (3) Personnel may ride in standing or unprotected positions only during the actual ceremonial procession; they must not ride in a standing or unprotected position while traveling to or from the processional route.
  - (4) If the procession entails travel on any high speed road, all personnel must be seated and secured by seatbelts before the vehicle enters the highway.



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- (d) During tiller driver training, the ladder truck must be equipped with a seat for the trainer ("trainer seat").
- (1) The trainer seat must be designed to support the trainer. It may be detachable, and it must be structurally sound and installed in a safe manner.
  - (2) The trainer seat must be equipped with a safety restraint belt sufficient to limit safely the trainer's forward and lateral movement. The trainer must wear the safety belt properly when the vehicle is in motion.
  - (3) The trainer seat must be used only for tiller driver training. Personnel must not be seated in the trainer seat during an emergency response and drivers must not receive training during an emergency response.
- (e) If patient care prevents the attendant(s) in an ambulance or Mobile Intensive Care Unit from using seatbelts, the attendant(s) may remove them. The driver must be notified and must use extreme caution while en route to the hospital.
- (f) Seat belts must be installed and maintained in good working order in all apparatus riding positions.
- (g) When apparatus design precludes the seating of the required minimum staffing levels in protected or partially protected positions, personnel responding in other apparatus may be counted towards that unit's minimum staffing. Each Corporation must develop alternatives to the use of the back step or other unprotected positions to comply with minimum staffing requirements.
- (h) Drivers must not move apparatus until all personnel on the vehicle are seated and secured with safety devices in approved riding positions, except as noted in Section 5(c).
- (i) If the Corporation's safety policy is more stringent than the provisions specified in this policy, the Corporation's policy will apply.



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## Sec. 6. Responsibility.

All personnel are responsible for complete and consistent adherence to this policy. The Unit Officer in charge of the apparatus is responsible for the enforcement of this policy by requiring full and consistent compliance with its provisions before allowing any vehicle to be moved.

## Sec. 7. Severability.

If a court of final appeal holds that any part of this regulation is invalid, that ruling does not affect the validity of other parts of the regulation.

## Sec. 8. Effective Date.

This regulation is effective 30 days after Council adoption or 90 days after Council receipt if the Council takes no action within 60 days of its receipt.

Attest:

Kevin P. Maloney

Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman  
Fire and Rescue Commission

3/22/91  
Date

1677d BM 3/5/91

Approved as to form and legality

Montgomery County, Md. County Attorney's Office

By: James J. [Signature]