



“The attitude of the operator of emergency vehicles is probably the most important indicator of the probability that he/she will be involved in a collision. A person’s physical skill actually maneuvers the vehicle, but the person’s attitude and mental state dictate the commands. Many skilled drivers are involved in collisions while oftentimes operators with less skill, ability, and experience avoid collisions by having a proper attitude.

Two of the most important traits that contribute to a good attitude of an emergency vehicle operator are courtesy and patience. You must understand that when responding with warning lights and sirens, you may encounter 10 or even 100 other civilian vehicles on the road. From your perspective, you know where you want them to go or how they can move out of your way. But the operator of a private automobile rarely encounters an emergency vehicle approaching. This often leads to panic and sometimes foolish responses to your warning signals. Try to empathize with the drivers placed in this position, especially the elderly or inexperienced drivers. Impatience on the part of the apparatus operator can easily lead to an accident. Remember, to be of any use at the scene of the emergency to which you are responding, you must first arrive there.” *FIRE ENGINEERING Apparatus Supplement, June 2004*

The goal of the MCFRS Driver Training Program is to produce competent and qualified emergency vehicle operators. This program will outline the training process and provide the driver candidate with the training competencies that must be completed in order to drive emergency vehicles in Montgomery County. The training competencies will ensure that the driver candidate has the required proficiency in both knowledge and practical skill to be an emergency vehicle operator.