



Buxton Fire-Rescue

Administrative Policy

Subject: Seat Belt/Distracted Driving (1)

Section/Number: Policy (1)

Date Approved: December 26, 2012

Not R. S. C.



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Objective:

To reduce the frequency of apparatus crashes, as a result of distracted driving; and, to reduce the risk of death or serious injury resulting from an apparatus crash.

Applicability:

This policy is applicable to all fire-rescue employees, and any riders in department apparatus. This policy directly speaks to electronic distractions while operating emergency vehicles, however, there are certainly other forms of distractions including eating, drinking, and looking at something outside of the operators primary field of vision. It is the operator's primary job to keep the crew safe from injury while traveling to, or from any emergency or non-emergency scene.

This policy does not restrict the operator from using the mobile radio to communicate while driving. However it is the intent that if there is an officer or a rider in the officer's seat, or the passenger seat of the apparatus, that they are the one who uses the radio to communicate during transit.

Seat Belts:

1. All occupants of department vehicle will be belted at all times while the apparatus is in motion. The vehicle operator is responsible to ensure all occupants are seated and belted before the apparatus moves.
 - a. The only exception to this is emergency medical technicians providing patient care while transporting a patient to a hospital (when able seat belts shall be utilized).
2. If children are transported in department vehicles child safety seats will be installed per rules/regulations regarding children (dependent on age and size).
3. At no time shall children under the age of 12, be allowed to ride in the front seat of apparatus equipped with air bags.

Distracted Driving:

1. At no time, while operating a department vehicle shall the operator in any way create, read, or write an email, text message, or other type of mobile media with a cellular phone, computer, iPad, etc.
2. If while operating a department vehicle, the operator must use a cellular phone, a hands free device must be used.