

<b>Osage Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines</b>	<b>Revised Date: N/A</b>	<b>Effective Date: 2/01/06</b>
<b>Responding</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to define safety measures that need to be followed when responding to the fire station and to an emergency scene.

**COMMENTARY:**

A safe response to the fire station and to the scene of an emergency is of up most importance. Without a safe response we run the risk of putting people’s lives in danger. Under no condition shall any firefighter place himself, members of the fire department or the public in danger due to excessive speed or reckless operation of fire department vehicles or personal vehicles while responding to a page.

**PROCEDURES:**

When responding to the fire station in privately owned vehicles (POVS), these precautions must be taken.

The use of emergency lights and siren in POVVS is strictly prohibited and against the law in Labette County. Violators will be turned over to law enforcement.

The use of amber flashing lights, to include hazard lights, in strictly prohibited.

All laws of the road must be followed to include but not limited to, speed and stop signs.

Emergency vehicles operating lights and siren have the right away. Kansas laws states that you must decrease your speed and allow the vehicle to pass in a safe manor. Violators will be turned over to law enforcement.

When responding to the scene from the fire department in an Emergency Vehicle, these precautions must be taken.

If responding to an emergency scene and the use of lights and sirens are warranted, both must be used. It is Kansas law that both lights and siren will be used in conjunction with each other.

When responding with lights and sirens, you are allowed to travel 15 mph over the posted speed limit.

Lights and sirens are only used to warn other motorist that you are on the road. They DO NOT give you the right of way. They DO NOT give you the permission to ignore the laws of the road. If you cause an accident and you broke a law of the road, it is your fault and you will be held accountable in a court of law.

If a motorist fails to yield to your lights and siren, DO NOT force them off the road. If time permits obtain their license plate information and turn it over to the Incident Commander after the incident has been brought to a close. DO NOT take matters into your own hands.

Proper distance shall be maintained between moving apparatus to avoid rear-end collisions.

Right of Way at intersections shall be yielded.

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No driver shall attempt at anytime to leave members in the station or the station's general area by quick response to an alarm. This will avoid the use of personnel vehicles.

Any mechanical problem found in any apparatus while in use shall be reported to the officer in charge. If in doubt as to any harm being done to the apparatus, stop the vehicle at once.

Under no circumstance shall any aspect of safety be sacrificed in order to increase the speed of the response.

Only personnel who have successfully completed and passed the department driver/operator training course are permitted to operate department vehicles, unless the vehicle is being operated under the supervision of an officer as part of the driver/operator training program. **Note: Under extreme circumstances, when no certified drivers are available, a driver in training may drive during an emergency situation. The driver must have permission by the Incident Commander and should be the driver with the most driver training time.**

The driver shall not move the apparatus until all personnel have their seat belts fastened.

All audible and visual devices shall be in operation when making an emergency response.

The driver shall always maintain a speed consistent with safe operation of the vehicle under the prevailing conditions.

When an emergency vehicle must approach an intersection the driver shall come to a complete stop until all other traffic in the intersection has yielded.

The sole responsibility of the driver during an emergency response is to drive. The driver shall not operate the radio, lights, sirens or other equipment.

On approaching the emergency scene all drivers shall watch for other emergency vehicles approaching from other directions.