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|  | **FLINT HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE |

**Guideline Number:** 700.01

**Guideline Title:** Driver Qualification

**Adopted:** 02/12/2024

**Rescinds:** 12/3/2012

**Approved By: (Chief)**

1. **PURPOSE:**

This SOG specifies the requirements and process to become a Flint Hill Fire Department (FHFD) apparatus driver/operator and the requirements to maintain driving privileges.

1. **DISCUSSION:**

This SOG details the initial requirements personnel must satisfy to be considered for becoming a driver/operator of FHFD apparatus. After the initial requirements are met a prospective driver/operator must then follow a process to become qualified to operate each apparatus. Driver/operators are also subject to ongoing requirements to maintain their driving privileges.

1. **GUIDELINE:**

**Initial Requirements**

1. Minimum 21 years of age.
2. SC Class E driver’s license or an equivalent out-of-state driver’s license for operating single-unit, noncommercial vehicles greater than 26,000 lbs. GVW.
3. Satisfactory driving record as determined by a current state driving record.
4. NFPA Firefighter II certification.
5. SCFA Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (or equivalent).
6. SCFA Pump Operations I class (or equivalent) for all apparatus with a fire pump, except grass trucks.
7. SCFA Basic Aerial Operations (or equivalent) for all apparatus with an aerial ladder.
8. SCFA Pump Operations II (or equivalent) for a tanker.

**Qualification Process**

After meeting the initial requirements outlined above, personnel begin the qualification process. The process is broken down into 2 phases – preparation and testing. The prospective driver/operator for a given apparatus completes the preparation phase by working with designated trainers/instructors to obtain knowledge and proficiency in the operation of the apparatus. The testing phase begins after the prospective driver/operator has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to complete the qualification process.

Preparation Phase

1. Submit a 700.01 DRIVER CHECKOUT REQUEST FORM to the Fire Chief for approval to begin the qualification process for an apparatus.
2. Obtain the appropriate qualification packet for the apparatus.
3. The prospective driver/operator shall drive a minimum of 3 hours on the road in various conditions when qualifying on their first apparatus greater than 26,000 lbs. GVW.
	1. Also, the prospective driver/operator shall drive a minimum of 3 hours on the road in various conditions when qualifying on an aerial apparatus.
	2. Additional hours may be required before the trainer/instructor is satisfied with the prospective driver/operator's driving skills.
4. The prospective driver/operator shall demonstrate a thorough understanding of the apparatus's operation (pumping, aerial operations, etc.).
5. The prospective driver/operator shall obtain a thorough knowledge of the apparatus mechanicals.
6. The prospective driver/operator shall obtain a thorough knowledge of all the apparatus systems.
7. The prospective driver/operator shall obtain a thorough knowledge of the apparatus specifications.

 Testing Phase

1. Schedule an appointment with the designated test proctors (if different for the written/oral tests and the practical assessment.
2. Complete the applicable written and/or oral tests.
3. Complete the practical assessment detailed in the qualification package.
4. Submit the completed qualification packet to the department training officer.

**Requalification on Apparatus**

1. Every year, each driver/operator shall demonstrate to a designated test proctor proficient operational knowledge of the apparatus they are qualified to operate.

**Notification of Traffic Citations**

1. Driver/operators must notify the Fire Chief the next workday after receiving a traffic citation.
	1. The Fire Chief shall review the citation and take the necessary action (if any) based on the nature of the citation.