

Sugar Loaf Fire Department – Standard Operating Procedure			
Subject: Driving		SOP#: 3.2.4	Revision: NA
Category: Safety	Type: Standard	Effective date: 1/20/15	Page: 1 of 3

1. Purpose

This document summarizes Department expectations relating to driving while participating in Department activities and describes procedures for addressing inappropriate behavior while driving or that could affect driving while participating in Department activities. This SOP is intended to be included in the firefighter’s handbook, and the acknowledgement of SOPs page must be signed and submitted upon receipt of the handbook as evidence that the firefighter has read and understood this policy and agrees to abide by its requirements.

2. Overriding Principles

Department leadership, including officers and the Board of Directors, believe that safety must be a key objective in the conduct of all Department activities and that maintaining community respect and trust is important to our function. Driving practices influence both of these issues, so our standards of behavior must be high. Driving Department vehicles is a privilege that should only be granted and maintained when a firefighter’s conduct is consistent with these principles of safety and respect. Therefore, the Department has adopted the following policies and procedures which are guided by the Colorado commercial drivers license rules.

3. Major Violations

Below is a list of the causes for a major violation. The first major violation will result in a 1-year suspension of a member’s right to drive any Department vehicle. The second major violation will result in termination of the firefighter’s right to drive any Department vehicle with no right to regain that privilege.

Major violations, whether committed while driving a Department vehicle or a personally owned vehicle (POV) and regardless of whether the violation occurred while engaged in Department activities or not, include:

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- Driving while under the influence of alcohol as prescribed by Colorado law.
- Driving while under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a vehicle
- Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by Colorado law under its implied consent laws or regulations.
- Leaving the scene of an accident.
- Using a vehicle to commit a felony.
- Driving when the driver's license is revoked, suspended, or canceled.
- Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a vehicle, including but not limited to the crimes of motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle and negligent homicide.
- Using a vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance.

4. Serious Traffic Violations

Serious violations that will invoke the conditions of this Section 4 include the violations described below only when committed while the driver is engaged in Department activities, regardless of whether the firefighter is driving a Department vehicle or a POV, except that serious violations that result in the revocation or suspension of the driver's license will invoke this Section 4 even when the firefighter is not engaged in Department activities. The first serious violation will not result in disciplinary action. A second serious violation within 3 years will result in a 60 day suspension of the members right to drive any Department vehicles, and a third serious violation within 3 years will result in a 120 day suspension.

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Serious traffic violations include:

- Speeding excessively, involving any speed of 15 mph or more above the posted speed limit.
- Driving recklessly, as defined by Colorado law, including but, not limited to, offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.
- Making improper or erratic traffic lane changes.
- Following the vehicle ahead too closely.
- Violating Colorado law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with a fatal accident.

5. Reporting Obligations

If a firefighter is convicted of any traffic violation other than parking violations, regardless of what type of vehicle the firefighter was driving or whether the violation was committed while engaged in Department activities, the firefighter must tell their Department supervisor of the violation within 30 days.