

Operating Guideline # 507

Intersections

October 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to protect firefighters and members of the public while Fire Department vehicles are responding to emergency incidents (Code 3 responses).

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Driving emergency vehicles under emergency response conditions is an especially challenging function; one that demands the full attention of the Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVO). Studies have shown that intersections present the greatest potential risk of collisions during an emergency response and so EVO's must be hyper-vigilant while manoeuvring fire department apparatus around and through intersections.

GUIDELINE:

1. EVO's while operating Muskoka Lakes Fire Department apparatus and responding to an emergency must ensure that all appropriate warning lights and devices are in operation including traffic pre-emption devices (i.e. – OPTICOM) used to control traffic lights/signals at intersections. NOTE: Never presume that the traffic pre-emption device will function as intended – instead drive defensively and assume it will NOT work as intended.
2. When approaching and crossing an intersection with the right of way (i.e. – on a green traffic light/signal), EVO's shall do so cautiously ensuring that the vehicle they are operating does not exceed the posted speed limit. (SEE ALSO OG 505 – Speed Limits)
3. When approaching an intersection displaying a red traffic signal/light or stop sign, the EVO shall bring the emergency vehicle TO A COMPLETE STOP and may proceed only when all other vehicles have yielded and the EVO can account for all oncoming traffic in all lanes.
4. When emergency vehicles must use oncoming traffic lanes to approach controlled intersections, (traffic lights/signals or stop signs) they must COME TO A COMPLETE STOP BEFORE PROCEEDING THROUGH THE INTERSECTION, including occasions when the emergency vehicle has a green traffic light.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

- Highway Traffic Act