

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES
SAFETY ZONES

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram



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Circle of Safety

Prior to entering the cab of any apparatus and starting the vehicle, the apparatus driver shall make a "Circle of Safety" by walking around the vehicle to see that all equipment is secured, that all compartment doors are securely closed, and any physical obstructions moved out of the way. During the "Circle of Safety", the apparatus driver shall encircle the vehicle and visually inspect all four sides and the vertical clearance of the unit before entering the cab. The driver shall also verify vehicle height clearance with the person riding in the officer position. The driver and the officer shall verify and ensure that all individuals traveling in the vehicle have securely fastened their seat belts. SCBAs can be donned on scene before exiting the vehicle. Safety of the firefighters is the primary resource of the fire service and injuring or killing a firefighter is not acceptable. The driver will not move the vehicle before verifying and ensuring all passengers are secured. This shall be conducted prior to moving the vehicle regardless of whether or not the vehicle is about to leave for an emergency or non-emergency response.

Seat Belt Use

All persons riding in the fire apparatus, staff vehicles, support vehicles and brush trucks, are to be seated in an approved riding position and be secured to the vehicle by seat belts, which are required whenever the vehicle is in motion. The apparatus driver/or the person riding in the officer position shall verify that all personnel are properly seated before the vehicle is moved. Fire Services prohibits riding on tailboards, sidesteps, running boards, on top of brush trucks, or in any other exposed position.

Dispersion level Chart

Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.

Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fire-line Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.

Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, act decisively.

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