

POCATELLO FIRE DISTRICT
CHIEF VEHICLES USAGE POLICY

The District may provide vehicles for use by one or more of the chiefs for the purpose of decreasing response time to emergencies and reducing the personal investment of the operator in carrying out Fire District/department duties. Use of the vehicle is not a right and shall at all times be a privilege which may be revoked or suspended without a hearing by order of the commissioners.

Alternatively, the District may permit chiefs to utilize their own vehicles on behalf of the District. In exchange for such permission, the District hereby imposes rules on the use of personal vehicles as emergency vehicles.

No other person shall operate the vehicle except for a chief or a person designated by the chief. For personal vehicles, no person shall activate the lights or sirens in the vehicle or operate the vehicle when they are in such use, other than the chief(s) or other than a person approved by the Chief.

No person who is not a member of the fire department or other fire department while on official business shall be present in the vehicle when the vehicle is in emergency response mode though the Chief may proceed to the scene or station during an emergency with other persons in the vehicle without utilizing emergency operations. A member of another fire department may be present in the vehicle for a purpose related to fire protection so long as such event would be covered by the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law.

No person less than twenty-one (21) years of age shall operate the vehicle for any purpose.

For District owned vehicles, the vehicle shall not be taken to a location which is more than forty miles from the firehouse, unless prior approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

For District owned vehicles, the vehicle may be taken to and from work if work is within a 10 mile radius of the District boundaries and only if the operator is permitted to leave work in order to attend emergencies or can respond while returning from work. In no event shall the vehicle be operated for trips solely for work related purposes.

The vehicle may be taken to training events or conferences out of the District with the permission of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

No chief may respond to an emergency in a district vehicle with a person in the vehicle if the individual is less than sixteen (16) years of age, unless there is another adult present in the vehicle who is fully available to supervise the individual.

An operator may not operate the vehicle if they are impaired by alcohol or drugs.

For District owned vehicles, fuel shall be purchased at a pre-arranged location by the District as needed and without charge to the operator. For personal vehicles, the District will reimburse mileage for actual, reasonable and necessary use for Fire District purposes.

On District owned vehicles and for personal owned vehicles occurring in the line of duty, any damage to the vehicle shall immediately be reported to the commissioners. Any injuries caused by or to the occupants of the vehicle shall be immediately reported to the commissioners.

For District owned vehicles, for tax purposes, the chief's vehicle is deemed to be a "qualified non-personal use vehicle" and is deemed as a working condition benefit. Nonetheless, the operator is required

to report to the commissioners any personal use of the vehicle that was not in the name of the Fire District and is expected to report any personal use to the Internal Revenue Service.

The vehicle shall only be operated while obeying all Fire District rules, procedures and policies including all New York State traffic laws including Vehicle and Traffic Law 1104.