

Annual Requalification of Emergency Vehicle (EV) Operators

Emergency vehicle drivers have in their care, custody, and control most of the major assets possessed by your organization. Most emergency vehicle drivers complete an initial training program but, 'once & done' is not enough. Regional and national agencies advocate and provide resources for initial and ongoing driver training.

The requalification process is one key aspect of assuring a driver maintains competency to operate a specific emergency vehicle. This process should be clearly outlined to assure all drivers understand the requirement. This bulletin provides items for Emergency Service Organizations (ESO)s to consider in their annual driver requalification process.

Annual Requalification

Annual requalification should include both classroom and hands-on driving. It is also important to review MVR results, actual driving time, driving evaluations, defensive driving, legal aspects, physical dynamics, and SOPs.

Drivers returning to driving duties from a suspension of privileges and/or returning to active status after being inactive for more than 6 months should be required to re-certify on the apparatus or vehicles they were previously qualified to operate.

Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Checks

MVR checks are a cost-effective way of understanding a member's driving history. MVR checks confirm license status and determine civilian and/or emergency vehicle driving infractions. This information can also be used to identify any pattern of violations that may warrant additional driver training.

- Establish written MVR evaluation criteria.
- Outline and discuss the requalification process with drivers.
- Obtain and review MVRs annually, and as deemed necessary according to the ESO's driver guidelines.

Additional Information

[Emergency Vehicle Driver Selection Criteria](#)

[State Motor Vehicle Driver Record Check Procedures](#)

Classroom Education

Classroom education doesn't just teach about safe driving techniques, it can also help reinforce a culture of safety within your organization. Providing classroom training and education consistently can help keep members engaged while also reminding them to practice safe driving techniques.

Some items to consider in your annual requalification process include:

- Review of jurisdictional emergency vehicle driving laws
- Defensive driving
- Rollover prevention
- Intersection safety
- Safe backing
- Roadway safety
- Review of driver monitoring system triggered events
- Review of department driving-related SOPs
- Fatigue & effects on driving
- Traffic pre-emption device safety
- Other items as identified

Annual Hands-on Driving Evaluation

Reinforce driving skills from behind the wheel. Establish a process for annual hands-on driving evaluation using a closed-course and/or over the road.

Maneuvers to consider include:

- A minimum number of right turns
- A minimum number of left turns
- Two straight line backing exercises
- Two right turn backing exercises
- Two left turn backing exercises

Responder+Help

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