

FREWSBURG FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONAL POLICY	Section 6	RESPONSE MATRIX	
	SUBJECT	PERSONAL VEHICLE RESPONSE	
	Policy 6-04	PAGE 1 OF 2	DATE: 01-01-2023

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the Frewsburg Fire District and shall be always adhered to while responding to emergency incident in personal vehicles.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify response and use of personal vehicles during an incident or event. This will maximize manpower on an incident and alleviate personal vehicle congestion.

III. PROCEDURE

1. Members of the Frewsburg Fire District may respond to events and incidents within the Frewsburg Fire District in privately owned vehicles (POV's).
2. All personnel must follow all laws and regulations of the State of New York that apply to non-emergency vehicles.
3. Privately owned vehicles used for response by members shall comply with all state and local regulations, including, but not limited to valid insurance and inspection.
4. The POV shall be in proper mechanical condition and the warning devices in compliance with the applicable laws.
5. The driver shall operate their vehicle in a safe manner and shall not exceed any posted speed limits at any time for any reason.

IV. RESPONSE IN PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES

1. When any fire department member responds to the station or to the scene of an emergency in his / her private vehicle, each member must strictly adhere to all applicable state motor vehicle laws.
2. Privately owned vehicles are not provided with the same exemptions that apply to fire department emergency vehicles or Chief's vehicles.
3. No member of the fire department will be permitted to violate any state motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to:
 - a. *Exceeding Posted Speed Limits*
 - b. *Going through Traffic Control Devices*
 - c. *Passing in an Unsafe Manner*
 - d. *Forcing other Vehicles off the Road*
 - e. *Improper Use of Blue Lights*

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4. While it is recognized that timeliness in response to an emergency is important, it is imperative that all drivers understand that their *private vehicles are not emergency vehicles and therefore are not afforded any exemptions or special privileges under state law.*
5. Any driver observed breaking any traffic laws or operating any vehicle in an aggressive or unsafe manner will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension, loss of driving privileges and withdrawal of blue light courtesy permit.

V. REPORTING UNSAFE PERSONAL VEHICLE OPERATION

Any observed unsafe operation of a personal vehicle responding to an alarm shall be reported to the Fire Chief. The Chief will investigate the reported unsafe action(s) and will take appropriate steps to address the incident.

VI. MUTUAL AID RESPONSE

1. No POV, aside from a chief officer, shall proceed to any mutual aid call unless directed by a Frewsburg officer. EMT only calls are the only exception to this policy.
2. For any mutual-aid response **ALL** Frewsburg personnel responding in their personal vehicle shall only respond to the hall.

VII. AUTHORIZATION FOR BLUE LIGHT USE

1. The Fire Chief may authorize the use of blue lights by fire department members on their private vehicles. Blue light authorization is granted when the Fire Chief signs the member's blue light authorization card. Blue light use will not be authorized for members under the age of 18 years.
2. Blue lights on vehicles should conform to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Blue light authorization may be revoked at any time by the Fire Chief. Blue lights are courtesy lights and should be used in accordance with the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. The blue light may be displayed exclusively by such volunteer firefighter on such a vehicle only when engaged in an emergency operation.
3. Red lights shall under no circumstance be used in conjunction with blue lights by personnel other than department or district authorized personnel or by any vehicle not acknowledged as an emergency vehicle.

