

Timbrook Public Safety Center
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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN IB - 11019

TO: All Fire and Rescue Personnel
FROM: C. Eddie McClellan, Captain
RE: Apparatus Driving Safety
DATE: April 13, 2011

Motor vehicle accidents involving emergency fire and rescue apparatus occur daily throughout the United States. Emergency apparatus accidents accounted for 11 of the 85 U.S. firefighter fatalities in 2010. This equates to 12.9% of all firefighter fatalities. This is an area where we have tremendous control of the severity surrounding the accident.

Last week, an officer of the Winchester Police Department expressed concern that we have personnel driving apparatus in a reckless manner and without due regard for safety of others. They reported multiple incidents of many different fire and rescue vehicles driving at increased speeds and those vehicles proceeding through traffic control signals without slowing appropriately. More specifically, they reported a truck from Rouss responding eastbound on Piccadilly Street through a red light at the intersection of Loudoun Street at an increased speed without braking for the intersection.

If this police officer perceives the driving habits of our personnel to be reckless; citizens most likely will have the same perception. We are all aware of the inherent risks with our profession, but there is no need for us to contribute to the risk by driving in a reckless manner.

We are entrusted to protect the lives and property of those we serve and practicing safe driving habits will enhance that protection.

Thanks for your attention to correcting this hazardous behavior!