



Vehicle Operations

Introduction: Vehicle crashes are some of the most frequent losses that SDIS incurs. This section is a compilation of best practices for creating and maintaining a solid motor vehicle program. The Risk Management Department can assist you with the development of this.

Prequalification Prior to Driving

- The district has a current job description for **any** position that drives vehicles for the district.
- The district policy for driving addresses the following areas:
 - Training
 - Experience – time behind the wheel
 - Experience – time at the district
 - Driver’s license check – motor vehicle report (MVR) from DMV
 - Job performance
 - Medical evaluations
 - Required qualifications for driving



Training of Drivers

- The district routinely provides different methods of training for drivers.
- The district monitors changes to traffic laws and provides this information to drivers.
- The district follows recognized training programs such as DPSST, NFPA, IFSTA, etc.
- The district places reminders of proper driving techniques and “watch-outs” around the station and apparatus for visual cues.

Initial Assessment of Driver Candidates

- The district provides a documented test based on the training material that was presented.
- The district conducts a closed course evaluation to demonstrate proficiency in each vehicle driven.
- The district conducts multiple over-the-road evaluations by a chief officer or designee for both emergency and non-emergent driving.

Requalification and Refresher Training

- The district conducts refresher training when changes, such as below occur **and** annually:
 - New or significant vehicle changes
 - Laws or rules related to driving are changed
 - New technology is added or used that affects driving conditions
 - Significant driver health changes (**requalification should also be done**)
- The district conducts performance evaluations annually by an over-the-road evaluation by a chief officer or designee for both emergency and non-emergent driving.
- The district reviews the driving records annually of each staff member who drives for the district.