



Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services

Driver Training Policy Guidance

PURPOSE:

To provide policy and procedure guidance to transport and nontransport service programs for the development of a driver training policy in order to maintain compliance with Iowa Code Chapter 641 -132(147A).

DEFINITIONS:

“*Emergency vehicle driver*” or “*driver*” means a currently licensed driver rostered with the service program or other emergency response personnel with emergency vehicle driving training.

BACKGROUND:

Iowa Code 641-132 establishes the following with regard to the development of a driver training policy:
132.3(4) *Service program requirements.*

a. A service program shall:

- (19) Ensure all service program members who operate motorized emergency response vehicles, ambulances, and rescue vehicles when used by a service member responding as a member of the service have a valid driver’s license and attend driver training prior to driving an emergency vehicle.
- (20) Develop, maintain and follow a written driver training policy that includes a review of Iowa laws regarding emergency vehicle operations (Iowa Code section 321.231), frequency of service required driver training, a review of service program policies and criteria for response with lights or sirens or both, speed limits, procedure for approaching intersections, and use of the service program communications equipment.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Transport and nontransport service programs shall develop, maintain and follow a written driver training policy. Driver training policy development should define, but is not limited to:

- a. Review of Iowa laws regarding emergency vehicle operations (Iowa Code 321.231)
- b. Frequency of driver training (e.g. upon hire and every two years after, annually, biannually, etc.)
- c. Policies/criteria for response with lights or sirens or both (e.g. Responses dispatched by the communications center as emergent – All vehicle warning devices shall be activated prior to leaving the station and will be used continuously until the vehicle arrives at its destination.)
- d. Speed limits – should address emergency and nonemergency responses (e.g. Maximum speed during emergency response will not exceed 10mph over the posted speed limit taking into consideration weather and road conditions. All nonemergency responses will adhere to posted speed limits.)
- e. Procedure for approaching intersections – to include controlled and uncontrolled intersections (e.g. The vehicle will come to a complete stop before proceeding through a stop sign, red traffic signal, non-controlled or limited line of sight intersection or railroad crossing.)
- f. Use of communications equipment (training to include vehicle radios, portable radios, cell phones, etc.)

Other driver training policy development considerations:

- a. Accident reporting (Reminder – Iowa Code 132.3(4)a(12) states that service programs are required to notify the department in writing within 48 hours of a motor vehicle collision resulting in personal injury or death. This includes department vehicles and staff members responding in personal vehicles.)
- b. Use of seatbelts while operating department vehicles.
- c. Use of personal cellular devices or department cellular devices while operating department vehicles.
- d. Backing procedures/safety
- e. Responding in personal vehicles/utilization of a “White Light”
- f. Responding emergent through school zones/approaching a school bus displaying red flashing lights



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- g. Driving against the natural flow of traffic or wrong side of a median.
- h. Passing of one emergency vehicle by another.
- i. Emergency vs nonemergency criteria for transport of patients from a scene.
- j. Behind the wheel training.

Upon completion of the signed and dated driver training policy it should be uploaded to your services AMANDA account and your regional coordinator should be notified in order to review the document. Revisions or changes to driver training policies or new driver training policies should be uploaded to your services AMANDA account and your regional coordinator should be notified in order to review the document.

For questions or assistance with regard to the development of a driver training policy, please contact your regional coordinator.

For further information with regard to Iowa Code 321.231 (Authorized emergency vehicles and police bicycles), please go to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/section/321.231.pdf>.

For further information with regard to Iowa Code 641-132 (Emergency Medical Services – Service Program Authorization), please go to <https://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/EMS>.

For further information with regard to Iowa Code 641-133 (White Flashing Light Authorization), please go to <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/08-24-2011.641.133.pdf>.

For “White Flashing Light” permits please go to <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/whitelight.pdf>.