



**Division 4 Education and Training**

**Chapter 08 – State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card**

January 2009

**POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department to adhere to this training and testing policy for the State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator.

**DEFINITIONS**

**MVA** – Motor Vehicle Administration

**Motor Vehicle Administration Employee Testing Program** - an agreement with MVA which establishes guidelines allowing the Department to train and test their own personnel for Non-Commercial Licenses

**State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator**- a card authorized by the State and issued by the Department allowing emergency vehicle operators to operate emergency vehicles without a Commercial or Non-Commercial license. No person shall operate emergency vehicles unless that person has in his or her immediate possession a valid driver’s license for the appropriate class of vehicle operated or a State of Maryland Emergency Vehicle Operator card.

**Training**- identical to the instruction administered by MVA for Non-Commercial Licenses in the Motor Vehicle Administration Employee’s Testing Program.

**Testing**- identical to examination administered by MVA for the Motor Vehicle Administration Employees Testing Program

**Endorsements**- on the reverse of the State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card will be an endorsement indicating “A” or “B”. “A” authorizes the cardholder to operate combination emergency vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 lbs. or more. “B” authorizes the cardholder to operate emergency vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 lbs. or more except combination vehicles.

**Existing Driver** -Department personnel (career and volunteer) who are currently an approved apparatus operator for the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department

**Out of State Residents**- Department personnel (career and volunteer) who live outside the state of Maryland and do not possess a Maryland driver’s license.

**PROCEDURES**

**1. General Provisions**

The Fire/EMS Training Academy shall coordinate the training and testing for all Fire/EMS Department career and volunteer members, including out of state residents to obtain a State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card.

Those who presently possess a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) and/or those who possess a Non-Commercial Driver’s License by the State of Maryland are exempt from requiring a Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card.



To qualify for the State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card, each Career Recruit, Volunteer, and/or out of state resident who does not possess a CDL or Maryland Non-Commercial license will be required to:

- Successfully obtain a Commercial/Non-Commercial learner's permit for the class of license the prospective student will be testing for. This permit will be required for a minimum of two weeks prior an examination date
- Successfully complete an approved Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) as determined by Maryland Fire and Recue Institute (MFRI)
- Have in their possession a valid driver's license issued by their state of residence authorizing them to drive a minimum of a passenger vehicle

### **Training/Testing**

Training will be a partnership between the Fire/EMS Training Academy and Emergency Operations. The guidelines and training materials will be distributed by the Fire/EMS Training Academy and available to each station.

Each candidate will be required to complete a driver's log and skill maneuver log detailed in the distributed training material. Candidates will not be permitted to train or test by the Fire/EMS Training Academy without producing these completed documents.

Requirements for completion of the driver's log shall include documentation of twenty-five (25) miles of driving time on the class of vehicle the candidate will be tested for.

Requirements for completion the skill maneuver log will follow the guidelines and training materials distributed by the Fire/EMS Training Academy. All skills must be completed and documented a minimum of five (5) times per skill on the class of vehicle the candidate will be tested for.

Each candidate will be required to attend an eight (8) hour training session with a Fire/EMS Training Academy Driver Instructor prior issuance of any testing. Scheduling for this training session will be coordinated by the Fire/EMS Training Academy Driver Instructor Coordinator.

Testing will be conducted by the Fire/EMS Training Academy. This assessment will mirror the MVA program for Non-Commercial 'A' and 'B' Licenses.

All training and testing will be conducted at the Academy by its specially trained staff.

Each career officer or volunteer chief will be responsible for scheduling their assigned personnel that meet the requirements for training and testing. This shall be accomplished by completing a request form and forward to the Driver Training Coordinator at the Fire/EMS Training Academy. The Coordinator will then contact the sender with training and testing dates. These dates will be within thirty (30) days of receipt of request.

Persons operating vehicles with a gross weight of 26,001 pounds or more will be trained and tested for the State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card with "B" endorsement; and those operating combination vehicles with a gross weight of 26,001 pounds or more will be trained and tested for State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card with "A" endorsement.



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND FIRE/EMS TRAINING ACADEMY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following vehicles will be used to train and test for the A/B endorsements:

- **“A” endorsements** will train and test using tractor drawn vehicles only (ladder trucks)
- **“B” endorsements** will train and test using engines, straight ladder trucks and rescue squads only

Personnel successfully passing the test will be issued a State of Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card with the appropriate “A” or “B” endorsement.

Those that do not successfully pass the test must be rescheduled for a retest by their station officer or volunteer chief; however, they will not be retested within the same 24-hour period.

Personnel that are unsuccessful will not be tested more than three (3) times, after which the individual will be required obtain a Commercial or Non-Commercial license through MVA.

## Existing Drivers

Existing drivers are required to provide the following documents:

- Valid Class A or B commercial/non-commercial license and/or permit
- Letter from a Volunteer Chief Officer or Battalion Chief detailing operator experience
- EVOC completion card

Existing drivers that cannot produce the above documents must complete the same training and testing procedures for the Maryland Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Card as all other students.

Prior training requirements and documentation will be waived for Existing Drivers, provided all documents are in accordance with existing policies on driving, and provided to the Driving Coordinator prior to scheduling of training and testing.

## REFERENCES

The Maryland Vehicle Law Annotated 2006 Edition Section 16-102

## FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

N/A