



**Lunenburg Regional**  
**FES**  
Fire & Emergency Services

**General Operating Guideline # 301**

**Subject: Qualifications for Apparatus Drivers/Operators**

**Approval: June 15,2023**

**Section 1: Purpose**

Safety is top priority. Emergency vehicle drivers/operators have a high standard of care to the Fire Department members and to the public and shall hold their safety in the highest regard. Emergency vehicle drivers must always retain command and control of their vehicles.

It is the responsibility of each Department to have a suitable driver/operator training program. This guideline outlines minimum general qualifications for apparatus drivers/operators in the safe operation of Fire Department apparatus. It is not intended to replace, contravene or supersede the requirements outlined in current Motor Vehicle Act nor substitute for specific Fire Department best practices and operating procedures.

**Section 2: Scope**

The apparatus driver guideline is applicable to Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Service personnel.

**Section 3: General Qualifications**

1. Non air brake equipped vehicles require the driver to have a valid Class 5 license or better.
2. For vehicles with gross weights below 14,000 kg. with air brakes, drivers shall have a valid Class 5 Nova Scotia Driver's License with an air brake endorsement or better.
3. For vehicles with gross weights over 14,000 kg. drivers shall have a valid Class 3 Nova Scotia Driver's License or better.
4. No member under the age of 18 shall be permitted to drive any department vehicle.
5. Driver's must be members (or deputized members if required) of the fire department owning the vehicle.
6. No member with a suspended or revoked license shall be permitted to drive any department vehicle.
7. Drivers shall maintain knowledge of the apparatus specifications, characteristics, limitations and maintenance requirements.
8. The driver/operator shall demonstrate the ability to deploy and operate all fixed systems and equipment on the vehicle so that each system or piece of equipment is operated in accordance with the applicable instructions and policies.
9. The driver/operator shall successfully demonstrate proficiency in Knowledge and Skills for the type of apparatus they are responsible for as outlined in NFPA 1002- Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications.
10. Trainee drivers may operate apparatus when under the direct supervision of a qualified driver.
11. Drivers shall successfully complete a department driving test prior to being able to operate that vehicle.
12. Drivers shall attend annual driver improvement programs as specified by the Fire Department.

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#### **Section 4: General Responsibilities**

1. If no qualified driver responds to the station following a dispatch page, another department shall be paged out to respond.
2. The driver of any Fire Department vehicle or apparatus shall be directly responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle under all conditions. When the driver is under the direct supervision of an Officer, that Officer shall also assume responsibility for the actions of the driver.

#### **Section 5: Driver Abstracts**

1. Drivers must be eligible and remain eligible for insurability under the Department's insurance policy.
2. Drivers who have been charged in any motor vehicle accident, with any alcohol or drug violation, received any moving violations or change in the status of their license, shall inform the Fire Chief in writing within 24 hours of the incident.
3. Drivers must report to the Fire Chief in writing within 24 hours, any suspension, revocation, downgrading or any change in their license status and / or ability to be insured.
4. Drivers will provide a driver's abstract annually or as deemed appropriate by the Department.
5. Driving privileges of a volunteer obtaining 6 or more demerit points will be reviewed by the Chief and may require additional training and / or monitoring to resume or maintain driving privileges of department owned, leased or rented vehicles/equipment.