FELTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: II

SOP: 2107

SECTION: 2100

SAFETY

SUBJECT:

DRIVING SAFETY

PURPOSE:

To provide consistent procedure governing operation of fire apparatus

and other District vehicles.

SCOPE:

To apply to personnel operating and responding fire apparatus and

other District vehicles.

PROCEDURE:

The following procedures will apply to the operation of fire apparatus and other District vehicles:

Operator Responsibilities

- 1. Apparatus operators must be in good physical condition and possess a current Class B California Drivers License, FIRE SERVICE, or Commercial if needed by employer.
- 2. Operators should be well rested and under no circumstances is an operator to drive any District vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug or medication that will impair the safe operation of the vehicle.
- 3. Operators must maintain a clear driving record and must be insurable by the District's insurance carrier.
- 4. All vehicles shall be operated consistent with the appropriate sections of the California Vehicle Code and any other applicable law or code.
- 5. A pre trip inspection (daily checkout) shall be performed by fire district staff to assure that all of the systems and safety equipment of the apparatus is in good working order.

Code Three Driving (Red Lights and Siren)

- 1. Operators responding vehicles Code Three shall comply with all appropriate sections of the vehicle code.
- 2. The posted speed limit shall be observed and under no circumstances shall the apparatus exceed a speed considered safe for road or visibility conditions.
- 3. Operators are to approach all intersections with caution and proceed carefully.
- 4. Operators should be aware of oncoming vehicles turning in front of the apparatus at intersections.

- •5. Apparatus shall come to a complete stop at intersections where a stop sign or red light is encountered. The operator may proceed only when the other drivers have yielded the right of way and it is safe to do so.
- When it is necessary to make left hand turns across stopped vehicles, come to a complete stop and advance cautiously after the other drivers have yielded the right of way.
- Apparatus should pass traffic on the left hand side. Extreme caution should be exercised when conditions dictate a deviance from passing on the left hand side is necessary.
- 8. Avoid traveling in opposing traffic unless you are certain traffic is clear.
- Red lights and siren should only be utilized when responding to emergency incidents. All warning devices of the apparatus should be utilized to increase vehicle visibility to avoid accidents.

Backing

- 1. The operator should reduce the occasion to back, if possible, by using one way traffic patterns or spotting the apparatus for forward exiting.
- 2. A spotter shall be used whenever possible. Clear communication (verbally and/or hand signals) is necessary between the driver and the spotter.
- 3. The ultimate responsibility for the apparatus lies with the driver. If unsure, the driver should get out to look at the backing area.
- 4. The spotter should be 8 to 10 feet behind the apparatus on the driver's side and maintaining eye contact with the driver. If the driver loses sight of the spotter, the apparatus should stop and wait until communication is reestablished.
- If a spotter is not available, the operator should get out and survey the backing area. Consideration should be given to overhead and width clearance, soft shoulder and damage to roadways or driveways due to apparatus weight.