



Clarke County Fire and Rescue

Standard Operating Guideline

John H. Enders VFD, Blue Ridge VFD, Boyce VFD, Clarke County Fire, EMS and Emergency Management

Subject: Seatbelt Use	SOG: 100.12	Page 1 of 2
Category: General – Seatbelt Use		Sub Category: Seatbelt Use
Approved by: Fire and EMS Director, Boyce VFD Chief, Blue Ridge VFD Chief, John H. Enders VFD Chief		Effective Date: 12/1/2018

Purpose:

While the Commonwealth of Virginia does not currently have a law regarding seat belt usage for persons riding in an emergency vehicle, the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of EMS's Medical Direction Committee published a position paper on April 11th, 2013, stating "We recommend that all personnel wear their seatbelt in the front and rear of the ambulance. We also recommend that agencies develop policies requiring compliance with seatbelt use." Towards that goal, this policy has been developed for the safety of the patients and providers of Clarke County Fire and EMS system.

Background:

Seatbelt Use According to NHTSA, only 16% of EMS practitioners in the patient compartment at the time of a serious collision were wearing seatbelts. The rest (84%) were unrestrained, while 22% of the drivers were not wearing seatbelt. A study found that of 114 EMS worker fatalities in 6 years, 58% of them (67) were ground transportation related. Information is not available for EMS patient transportation related fatalities but an ambulance in crash Stafford, Virginia in February, 2018, resulted in a patient fatality.

Application:

This policy applies to any person riding in any emergency vehicle operated by Clarke County Fire & EMS.

Policy:

- All operators and front seat passengers of an emergency vehicle must use seat belts when the vehicle is in motion.
- All personnel riding in the rear of any emergency vehicle must be seated and belted while the vehicle is in motion. All personnel must have their own seat and belt. There will be no sharing of seats, riding on the floor, or exterior of any vehicle.
- All personnel in the ambulance patient compartment must use seat belts when the vehicle is in motion. Effort should be made to perform patient care while restrained. Personnel may be allowed to be unrestrained in the performance of life-saving care of the patient, but the provider should attempt to restrain themselves after the procedure has been completed.
- All patients on the stretcher must be secured at all times when the vehicle is in motion or the stretcher is being carried or moved.
- All non-EMS personnel in the ambulance patient compartment must use seat belts when the vehicle is in motion.
- If a child is taken to the hospital as a passenger, every effort should be made to bring along the child's restraint seat and to belt the child in the seat in the appropriate manner.
- Safety is everyone's responsibility. Non-compliance with this policy will be addressed by station leadership.

SOG Tracking

	Draft	Chiefs Review	Commission Review
Date	10/15/18	End 11/19/18	Sch-11/8/18-no meeting
Comments		No Comments	Rescheduled for Dec
Adjustments			
Final Adoption	12/1/2018		