

Fire Apparatus Operation in Minnesota

In the State of Minnesota, firefighters must have a valid driver's license, but are not required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate fire apparatus. Additionally, they are required to be trained and to show competency for all required tasks as documented by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and enforced by the appropriate regulatory agency. In this document are excerpts from some applicable federal regulations regarding driving and operating fire apparatus.

- Training requirements from the OSH Act of 1970 and General Industry Standards under 1910.156 are enforced by Minnesota OSHA.
- Driving and operating fire apparatus are regulated by the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and enforced by the MN Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- NFPA 1002 is a professional recommendation, but is not enforceable in Minnesota.

The information listed in this document is not all inclusive of all federal, state and local regulations, and should only be used as a guide. Please contact MNOSHA (<http://www.dli.mn.gov>), MN DPS (dps.mn.gov), or MNDOT (www.dot.state.mn.us) with any specific regulation questions regarding fire apparatus operation and requirements.

You may also contact your regional training provider for an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), NFPA 1002 training, Fire Engine Pump Operations, Fire Ladder and Elevated Master Streams, and other relevant training needed by your fire department regarding fire apparatus operation.

OSH Act of 1970

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=OSHACT&p_id=3359

a) Each employer --

- (1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees;

1910 Subpart L - Fire Protection

1910.156(c)(1)

The employer shall provide training and education for all fire brigade members commensurate with those duties and functions that fire brigade members are expected to perform. Such training and education shall be provided to fire brigade members before they perform fire brigade emergency activities. Fire brigade leaders and training instructors shall be provided with training and education which is more comprehensive than that provided to the general membership of the fire brigade.

1910.156(c)(2)

The employer shall assure that training and education is conducted frequently enough to assure that each member of the fire brigade is able to perform the member's assigned duties and functions satisfactorily and in a safe manner so as not to endanger fire brigade members or other employees. All fire brigade members shall be provided with training at least annually. In addition, fire brigade members who are expected to perform interior structural fire fighting shall be provided with an education session or training at least quarterly.

5. Training and education. The paragraph on training and education does not contain specific training and education requirements because the type, amount, and frequency of training and education will be as varied as are the purposes for which fire brigades are organized. However, the paragraph does require that training and education be commensurate with those functions that the fire brigade is expected to perform; i.e., those functions specified in the organizational statement. Such a

performance requirement provides the necessary flexibility to design a training program which meets the needs of individual fire brigades.

[1910 Subpart L App A - Fire Protection](#)

At a minimum, hands-on training is required to be conducted annually for all fire brigade members. However, for those fire brigade members who are expected to perform interior structural firefighting, some type of training or education session must be provided at least quarterly.

In addition to the required hands-on training, it is strongly recommended that fire brigade members receive other types of training and education such as: classroom instruction, review of emergency action procedures, pre-fire planning, review of special hazards in the workplace, and practice in the use of self-contained breathing apparatus.

CFR Title 49 Part 383 COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE STANDARDS; REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/part/383>

§ 383.3: Applicability.

(d) *Exception for farmers, firefighters, emergency response vehicle drivers, and drivers removing snow and ice.* A State may, at its discretion, exempt individuals identified in paragraphs (d)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3) of this section from the requirements of this part. The use of this waiver is limited to the driver's home State unless there is a reciprocity agreement with adjoining States.

(2) Firefighters and other persons who operate CMVs which are necessary to the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions, are equipped with audible and visual signals and are not subject to normal traffic regulation. These vehicles include fire trucks, hook and ladder trucks, foam or water transport trucks, police SWAT team vehicles, ambulances, or other vehicles that are used in response to emergencies.

CFR Title 49 Part 391 QUALIFICATIONS OF DRIVERS AND LONGER COMBINATION VEHICLE (LCV) DRIVER INSTRUCTORS

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/part/391>

2. Excepted Interstate (EI) – Engaged in interstate commerce and excepted from 49 CFR Part 391 requirements (does not need medical certificate to drive interstate);

e) The operation of fire trucks and rescue vehicles while involved in emergency and related operations.

NFPA 1002: Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications

<http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/document-information-pages?mode=code&code=1002>

This standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for career and volunteer fire fighters and fire brigade personnel who drive and operate fire apparatus. The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum JPRs for service as a fire apparatus driver/operator.