

# GRAND RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: OPERATION OF VEHICLES – 302	SERIES: 300
EFFECTIVE DATE:	DATE ISSUED:
CHIEF:	DATE:

### **302.01 PURPOSE AND GENERAL POLICY:**

Members of the Grand Rapids Fire Department shall in all cases drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall carefully weigh the risk inherent in violating traffic laws against the value of the end promoted by such violations. In case of doubt, the operator shall decide in favor of safety.

Wisconsin State Statute 346.03 exempts operators of emergency vehicles from some rules of the road, but does not relieve the driver of the emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons under the circumstances, or does it give the privilege to drive with reckless disregard for the safety of others.

### **302.02 OPERATING EMERGENCY VEHICLES:**

Members shall in all cases drive with the due regard for the safety of all persons and shall carefully weigh the risks inherent in disregarding the traffic laws against the value of the end promoted by such violation. In case of doubt, the member shall opt for safety.

Unmarked authorized vehicles are subject to the same restrictions as marked vehicles with the additional requirement that they display a flashing or rotating red light when required to disregard traffic regulations. Officers driving unmarked vehicle shall exercise special care since their vehicles tend to be less visible.

If the operator of an emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency he/she may:

1. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation
2. Exceed the speed limit.
3. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
4. May stop, stand or park irrespective of the provision of this chapter.

The above privileges are extended to only when providing the required visual and audible signals as outlined under Statutes 346.03. Regardless of privileges,

members shall drive defensively and with due regard for the safety of all persons and property at all times.

Members must take into consideration road conditions, times of day, density of traffic, the severity of call.

The exemption granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by this policy or by Statute does not relieve such operator from the duty to drive with due regard under the circumstances for the safety of all persons nor do they protect such operator from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

### **302.03 OPERATING POV:**

Members and MFR(s) authorized to respond to a scene shall in all cases drive with the due regard for the safety of all persons. Members shall carefully weigh the risks inherent to this type of response and adhere to all traffic laws. In case of doubt, the member shall opt for safety.

Members must take into consideration road conditions, times of day, density of traffic, the severity of call when responding in an authorized POV.

The exemption granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle are not extended to an authorized response of a POV.

### **302.04 TRAINING:**

Each member shall bi-annually complete at least four (4) hours of training in EVOC.

### **302.05 COMPLIANCE:**

Violation of this policy could result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. In addition to any other civil or criminal proceeding that could result from their actions.