

Procedure	Effective Date	Rescinds
Use of Seat Belts in Fire Department Vehicles	1 January 2005	New

Reference

Norwich Township Fire Department SOG #31

Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a guideline for the safety of individuals riding in Norwich Township Fire Department vehicles during the course of all vehicle operations. Each member is expected to know, understand and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

Responsibility:

- I. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III. It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgment in the use of this guideline.

Guideline:

Overview:

Norwich Township Fire Department vehicles shall be operated in a manner that provides for the safety of all persons and property. Safe arrival shall always have a priority over unnecessary speed and reckless driving enroute to and emergency scene.

State of Ohio Motor Vehicle Regulation Code requires the use of seat belts in all motor vehicles so equipped. The Norwich Township Fire Department policy shall coincide with the Regulations of the State of Ohio Motor Vehicle Code.

I. Use of Seat Belts, General

All Norwich Township Fire Department members are required to use seatbelts at all times when operating a township vehicle equipped with seatbelts. Anyone riding as a passenger in a township vehicle shall also be required to use seatbelts.

- A. The company officer/driver of the vehicle shall confirm that all personnel and riders are on-board, with seat belts on, before the vehicle is placed in motion.

II. Use of Seat Belts in EMS Vehicles

All Norwich Township Fire Department employees are required to use seatbelts at all times when operating a township vehicle equipped with seatbelts. Anyone riding as a passenger in a township vehicle shall also be required to use seatbelts.

- A. Fire department members who are providing patient care while enroute to a healthcare facility may need to have the ability to maneuver in the patient care compartment of the vehicle. During these times it is permissible to not use the seat belts.