

Vehicle/Apparatus Inspections And Maintenance

702.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the inspection and maintenance responsibilities of members with regard to District vehicles and apparatus, to ensure the vehicles comply with all regulations specified in the California Vehicle Code and the California Commercial Driver Handbook. Inspections also ensure that vehicles and apparatus are properly equipped, maintained, refueled and present a professional appearance.

702.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Apparatus - All self-propelled firefighting vehicle capable of carrying at least one person.

Commercial vehicle - A vehicle or combination of vehicles that requires a class A or class B license (Vehicle Code § 15210(b)(1)).

In-reserve - Any vehicle or apparatus that, while not currently staffed, is ready for service or deployment as needed, regardless of whether it is fully equipped with tools and equipment.

In-service - Any vehicle or apparatus that is either staffed or cross-staffed by members of the Operations Division or that is pre-positioned to be readily available to on-duty Operations personnel for calls for service.

Staff vehicles - Typically, District vehicles that do not qualify as commercial vehicles (Vehicle Code § 15210(b)(1)).

Vehicle - Any self-powered or self-propelled vehicle, including cars, pick-up trucks, fire apparatus of all types, ambulance units, command vehicles, crew-carrying vehicles, tractors, boats or powered watercraft and off-highway vehicles.

702.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District that all vehicles and apparatus be inspected daily, including in-service and reserve apparatus. Vehicles and apparatus that are out-of-service for maintenance or repair need not be inspected until they are returned to service or released to in-reserve status.

702.3 PROCEDURE

District vehicles generally fall into one of two categories: those that meet the definition of commercial vehicle pursuant to the Vehicle Code, and those that do not. The inspection requirements for District vehicles will differ based on this distinction.

702.3.1 APPARATUS DAILY INSPECTIONS

Members shall be responsible for conducting a daily inspection of apparatus that includes all of the items and provisions identified as part of the California Commercial Vehicle Pre-Trip Inspection. The inspection list is detailed in the current version of the California Commercial Driver Handbook.

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When an apparatus becomes inoperative or in need of a repair that affects safe operation, it shall be immediately removed from service.

Members should maintain a written record of inspections for each vehicle or apparatus using the appropriate inspection form for the vehicle type. Completed inspection forms should be forwarded to the Fleet Manager and retained by the District for at least two years.

702.3.2 STAFF VEHICLE DAILY INSPECTIONS

Members who are assigned staff vehicles shall be responsible for the inspection and daily maintenance of their assigned vehicle. Daily maintenance should include checking and maintaining engine and transmission fluids, checking and maintaining tire inflation pressure, monitoring tire wear, and any other inspection needed to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle.

Any vehicle issues discovered during inspection should be promptly addressed. When a vehicle becomes inoperative or in need of repair that affects the safe operation of the vehicle, it shall be immediately removed from service for repair.

Members also are responsible for completing a monthly inspection and equipment inventory for each assigned vehicle and documenting it on the appropriate inspection form. When completed, the form should be forwarded to the Division Chief in the member's chain of command. The monthly checklists should be retained by the District for at least two years.

702.4 CLEANLINESS

All apparatus and staff vehicles shall be maintained in a condition presenting a professional appearance, weather conditions permitting.

Members shall obtain clearance from the Battalion Chief before going out-of-service for vehicle maintenance.

Members using a staff vehicle shall remove any trash or debris at the end of a shift. Any confidential material should be placed in a designated receptacle provided for the shredding of this matter.