Vehicle Operation Policy — Non-Emergency

POLICY

THE RULE

1. The best drivers are always aware of their responsibilities, roadway characteristics, environmental conditions, and vehicle capabilities/limitations
2. Driving: inspected and inventoried; driven in the right lane of the roadway; not taken off roadway; 360 walk-around before driving
3. Have a spotter when backing; wear seatbelts; avoid quick starts and stops
4. Parking: park where you can get out easily; do not block the roadway; set the emergency brake; lock all doors and compartments
5. Maintenance: check fluids and safety equipment as part of shift inspection; maintain at regular mileage intervals
6. Breakdowns: notify dispatch if en route to a patient, notify a supervisor, complete a breakdown report

WHY IT EXISTS

- Policies for the operation of ambulances and support vehicles during non-emergency (and emergency) operation

APPLIES WHEN

- Operating ambulances and support vehicles in non-emergency operation

EXCEPTIONS & EDGE CASES

- Passengers: a relative or significant other sits in the front passenger seat; can ride in the patient compartment if the attendant deems it in the patient's best interest — must wear a seatbelt
- EMS can refuse passengers who pose a safety hazard or disrupt patient care
- Following the ambulance: advise family they must obey all traffic laws; if a follower ignores traffic laws while you run lights and sirens, stop the lights and sirens, continue transport, and contact law enforcement
- Children who are not patients: secure other transport when possible; secure using an integrated car seat, Pedimate, or ECR
- Behavioral health transports: only one patient per ambulance, all safety restraints placed, minimum 2-person crew

DOCUMENT IT

- Complete a breakdown report for breakdowns (and notify dispatch and a supervisor)

Take Home Message:

Non-emergency driving is the standard: right lane, seatbelts on, a spotter to back, and a 360 walk-around before you move.