



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

General Order Number: 10-04	Effective Date: January 2010
Division: Logistics and Supply	
Chapter: Energy Conservation	
By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor	Revision Date: N/A

POLICY

This General Order is established to conserve energy and reduce the Department's fuel and electricity costs. This policy is not exhaustive and personnel should continuously strive to find ways to responsibly cut back on the energy used for fire stations, offices, and apparatus.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Fuel Reduction Measures for Vehicles

All Fire/EMS personnel shall adhere to the following guidelines for fuel reduction:

- Vehicles using County fuel are to be used for official business only. Whenever possible, travel shall be consolidated and telephones should be used in lieu of personal contacts that require travel.
- Specifically, vehicles using County fuel shall not be used for the sole purpose of obtaining food.
- Vehicle engines will not be turned on unless it is absolutely necessary to ensure its operational readiness.
- When possible, turn off engine and restart when ready to move.
- Generally, vehicle engines shall not be idled. Proper warm-up requires operating vehicle at low speed and load, until the engine reaches proper operating temperatures.
- The Incident Command Vehicle may sit and idle on an emergency scene.
- Sedans and utility vehicles shall be shutdown on emergency scenes, unless they are providing barrier protection and the vehicle's emergency lights must remain on.
- Fire/rescue apparatus and other Departmental vehicles shall have engines turned off when not being actively used at emergency scenes and/or hospitals, except on days when the temperature is below thirty degrees. In such an instance, vehicles carrying water are to keep engines running to avoid frozen pumps.
- Fire/rescue apparatus shall not be left running outside of the fire station, except for approved training by the station officer.
- Generally, fire/rescue apparatus shall only be started up once a week for a preventive maintenance check. Whenever possible, other daily checks shall be completed without starting the engines. Certain checks that are necessary after warm-up and weekly checks shall be performed after a call, whenever possible.



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- Fill fuel tanks with fuel only until the nozzle clicks off. Topping off tanks is not permitted.
- Tires shall be checked weekly and maintained at full recommended pressure on all vehicles. Rapid acceleration of vehicles must be reduced to conserve fuel.
- Every attempt must be made to consolidate safety checks, i.e., draining air tanks for condensation in cold weather before starting engine.
- Every effort shall be made to reduce or consolidate area familiarization drills using fire/rescue apparatus, to the extent this does not hamper or compromise the public's safety. Company officers may make such a determination, subject to review.
- Adherence to all maintenance procedures and guidelines will be strictly required, and all vehicle engines shall be kept properly tuned. Coordination with the Apparatus Maintenance Division is essential.

2. Driving Suggestions

For more fuel efficient driving:

- After a short warm-up, vehicle operators should drive slower than normal for the first few minutes.
- Operators should ensure they have released the emergency brake when starting, and should avoid riding the brake pedal while moving.
- When traffic conditions permit, operators should routinely accelerate slowly and drive at a moderate speed with a steady pace. Varying speed by excessive braking and accelerating should be avoided.
- Plan trips sensibly. Organizing several errands into one trip should be paramount in preparation for daily activities.

3. Energy Conservation Measures for Buildings

The following actions shall be taken to reduce heating, air conditioning and ventilation costs:

- Station doors and windows should remain closed when energy is being used to heat or cool the station.
- Bay doors should remain closed (except to allow apparatus in or out of the station) when energy is being used to heat or cool the apparatus bay.
- When heating, set thermostats at sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit (68°F).
- When cooling, set thermostats at seventy-eight degrees Fahrenheit (78°F).
- Thermostats shall not be tampered with after they are set by maintenance personnel.
- Heating, cooling and ventilation systems are to be turned off in unoccupied areas, when possible.
- Heating and cooling system maintenance work orders shall be given priority processing by Logistics and Supply.



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The following actions shall be taken to reduce lighting costs:

- Unnecessary lights shall be tuned off at all times, i.e., there is enough natural light to conduct activities without creating a hazard.
- Lights shall be turned off in unoccupied areas.
- Personnel shall ensure that all unnecessary lights are turned off before securing the building each evening.
- Personnel shall ensure that any outside lighting, including that which may have been left on the previous evening, is turned off during the day.

REFERENCES

N/A

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A