

Operating Guideline # 508

Off Road

October 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines that provide measures that will prevent apparatus responding to emergencies from becoming incapacitated or damaged due to soft or unstable soils.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

The weight and size of fire apparatus precludes the ability to operate on any roadway or surface that was not designed to carry heavy and large vehicles. Fire apparatus travelling off-road are subject to becoming stuck or possibly rolling over due to soil conditions that will not support the weight of the apparatus. This is an important consideration when considering driving or parking on the soft shoulder of most roads and highways. The large size of fire apparatus may make entry into some areas impossible due to obstructions in narrow areas.

GUIDELINE:

1. All fire apparatus will not leave the travelled portion of any road or driveway when responding to, or returning from any alarm.

EXCEPTION: Fire apparatus designed for off-road operation (4X4 Support Vehicles, and 4X4 Pumpers etc.) will be permitted to deviate from this guideline if the EVO determines the terrain is suitable to be navigated.

2. Terrain suitability should be determined by the operator getting out and walking the path to be taken.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.