


SOG# 505-27	Standard Operating Guideline		
	Cumberland Road Fire Department Inc.	Approved By	
		Steven Parrish, Fire Chief	
		Effective Date	Revised Date
	Personally Owned Vehicle (POV) Response	1-12-2025	

1. SCOPE

This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) applies to **all members**, volunteer and/or paid, of the Cumberland Road Fire Department (CRFD) and **shall be adhered to at all times**.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOG is to establish **clear expectations and requirements** for members, volunteer and/or paid, when responding to a dispatched call for the Cumberland Road Fire Department in a **personally/private owned vehicle (POV)**.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Dash Light(s):

A light purchased for placement on a dashboard, window, or exterior area of a POV for use by emergency personnel, volunteer and/or paid; also referred to as a *courtesy light* or *warning light*.

3.2 NCGS Chapter 20:

The chapter of the North Carolina General Statutes governing the Division of Motor Vehicles and the operation of vehicles on the roadways of North Carolina.

3.3 North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS):

The official legal code of the State of North Carolina, consisting of all statewide laws in effect at the time of publication.

3.4 Personally Owned Vehicle (POV):


A vehicle privately owned by a member and **not owned, operated, insured, or maintained** by the Cumberland Road Fire Department.

3.5 Shall:

Indicates a **mandatory requirement**.

3.6 Standard Operating Guideline (SOG):

A document that establishes how the organization operates and how its members, volunteer and/or paid, are expected to perform duties and responsibilities.

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4. GENERAL POLICY

The Cumberland Road Fire Department recognizes that it has **limited authority and oversight** over members' personally owned vehicles. However, membership in the department carries defined expectations when responding to dispatched calls. All members, volunteer and/or paid, **shall comply** with the requirements outlined in this SOG.

This SOG establishes expectations in accordance with **North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 20**.

5. MOTOR VEHICLE LAW COMPLIANCE

5.1 Personnel responding in a POV **shall obey all North Carolina motor vehicle laws** as outlined in NCGS Chapter 20.

5.2 Personnel responding in a POV **are not exempt** from any provision of NCGS Chapter 20.

6. EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND WARNING DEVICES


6.1 Personnel, volunteer and/or paid, **shall not display or utilize** any dash light, courtesy light, or warning light on a POV, **except Chief Officers**.

6.2 Audible warning devices, as permitted under NCGS Chapter 20, **are authorized only on a Chief Officer's POV**.

7. RESPONSE IN A PERSONALLY OWNED VEHICLE

7.1 Personnel responding in a POV **shall not respond directly to the incident scene, except Officers** as outlined in this section.

7.2 **Chief Officers** are permitted to respond directly to the scene for incident management purposes. Priority **shall be given to apparatus response, staffing, and overall resource needs**.

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7.3 **Captains and Lieutenants** may respond directly to the scene **only when their normal path of travel places them at or near the incident location**, and when such response does not interfere with apparatus staffing, response times, or operational needs.

8. COMPLIANCE

Failure to comply with this SOG may result in corrective action in accordance with departmental policy, up to and including suspension of response privileges or disciplinary action.

9. REVIEW AND REVISION

This SOG shall be reviewed periodically by the Fire Chief and Board of Directors and revised as necessary to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws and operational best practices.