



**CALVERT COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>2.3-Driving Policy</b>		
<b>ISSUED BY:</b>	Department of Public Safety/Career EMS		
<b>RESPONSIBLE STAFF:</b>	Division Chief Barry Contee		
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	4/27/19	<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To establish the driving policy for personnel within the Career EMS Division		
<b>APPLICABLE TO:</b>	All Career EMS Field Clinicians		
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>			

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GUIDELINE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>POLICY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PROCEDURE</b>
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**This document needs to be reviewed/updated:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Annually</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (Fiscal Year) <input type="checkbox"/> (Calendar Year)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other Interval:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>As needed</b>	<b>Flag for review on:</b>

**I. Purpose**

To provide guidelines to CEMS personnel for safe operation while operating any vehicle during operations. During the operation of vehicles personnel should use all established procedures to keep themselves, other providers, patients and the public at large safe and free of any unavoidable incidents.

**II. Policy**

It is the policy of the CEMS Division that all personnel are to adhere to safe driving practices at all times when operating any vehicle while on duty, regardless of whether operating in an emergency or non-emergency basis.

**III. Procedure**

Cameras: All vehicle operated by Career EMS will have forward-facing cameras and cab-facing cameras that are recording at all times. These cameras also record the sound within the cab. Tampering with these cameras in any way will be considered destruction of evidence and the employee will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures, up to and including termination.

Impairment/Sleep Deprivation: At no time shall a clinician operate any vehicle while impaired by any prescribed or non-prescribed drug or substance. If required, the driving responsibilities shall be turned over to the non-impaired clinician until the call is resolved or another clinician has relieved the affected person on duty.

Drivers feeling sleep deprived shall turn the driving responsibilities over to their partner until returning to the station and shall notify a supervisor immediately upon arrival or while en route.

Rendezvous: When it is deemed necessary to rendezvous with another provider to assist with patient care or to assess the patient, the vehicle should not be stopped on the side of a highway for the rendezvous. A safe location off the road should be utilized as to not endanger the crew or its patient.

Restraint Systems: During the operation of a vehicle, whether emergency or non-emergency, all occupants MUST properly utilize all available driver and passenger restraint devices. Clinicians functioning in the patient compartment section of the vehicle MUST be properly restrained during movement of the vehicle. Any additional crew members MUST be properly restrained during movement. Any family or care providers transported with the patient MUST be properly restrained during vehicle movement, whether in the patient compartment or the cab section of the vehicle. Pediatric patients MUST be properly restrained during transport utilizing an established and approved restrain system or vehicle seat appropriate for the child's age and weight. Service animals, if transported with patient, shall lay on the floor between the stretcher and captain's seat OR on the floor of the cab in the passenger section of the unit.

Responses: When responding on emergency calls for service all functioning lights and sirens shall be utilized to ensure the public and other vehicles are aware of the responding vehicle's request for yielding. Drivers may use discretion during nighttime responses while traversing residential neighborhoods provided the operation of the siren is utilized when approaching other vehicles and pedestrians and whenever approaching and entering an intersection.

Speed Limit: Drivers may exceed the posted speed limit on highways when responding provided there is little to no other vehicles on the road and it is deemed safe to do so. At all times the vehicle must be under the control of the driver and all potential obstacles must be considered when responding on highways.

During inclement weather vehicles shall never be driven at a speed that prevents the driver from maintaining control, due diligence and safety at all times.

Vehicle Backing: When the backing of a vehicle becomes necessary the passenger is required to dismount the vehicle and establish a position on the driver's side rear of the vehicle. The driver shall not begin the backing of the vehicle until the spotter is in place and motions the driver to begin. Spotter must utilize hand signals or gestures that are

clearly identifiable or must communicate those gestures or hand signals to the driver prior to walking to the rear of the vehicle.

When drivers are unable to utilize a spotter to back them due to critical patient treatment or lack of a spotter the driver should use extreme caution when backing the vehicle.