



Date: May 25, 2007
From: Peggy Munsell, Manager of Standards and Technical Resources
Subject: Operating fire department apparatus

Employee initiated e-mail question, April 11, 2007

Question: I have been on the department for 2 yrs. Have been to Basic Fire fighting school. Fire Fighter 1 school Defensive driving school and pumper operator school. I have driven my required 10 hrs of driving before driving on code. Is there any requirements I am missing? What are the requirements for driving a fire truck under code?

Answer: Oregon OSHA's requirement for assigning personnel to operate fire department apparatus (or for performing all other activities) is located in OAR 437-002-0182(10)(a), with supplemental requirements in parts (b) and (c). The link is http://www.orosha.org/pdf/rules/division_2/div2_1.pdf.

OAR 437-002-0182(10)(a) requires training and education be given that develops and maintains the appropriate level of knowledge, skill, and ability for all assigned duties and tasks. Such training and education must be given before those duties are performed. The supervisory staff of your fire department (which includes the chief and officers) is required by OAR 437-002-0182(5) to make sure every person assigned, or allowed to operate a piece of equipment, or perform any other activity is adequately trained and competent to safely perform that task. This means that each person's abilities need to be observed and evaluated by someone with the authority to approve, or not approve them for future assignment to that task.

Your department's chief or training officer should know if other requirements must be met before operating a truck or piece of fire apparatus. Your Sheriff's Office, the local OSP Office, DMV, your department's insurance carrier, and DPSST are all good sources of additional information.

