



Did YOU know?

Distractions

Driving requires your undivided attention

Crew Chatter and Behavior

Is the inside of your apparatus cab like a rave or a rodeo ring? Radio discipline is a concept that should extend to general “communication” discipline while the apparatus is in motion. Crew members need to prioritize and minimize the chatter, especially in the headsets.

Radios, Cell Phones, and MDT

The radio channel and volume needs to be set before leaving quarters, or left to the officer. The MDT also needs to be left to the officer or else addressed while the vehicle is stopped.

Do you wear your radio strap while driving? What happens when it slips off your shoulder or limits your mobility? Stow it safely and don it when you arrive at the scene.

As an officer, have you considered how you speak on the radio can help or hurt a driver? Unusual, undisciplined, or emotion-charged radio traffic leads to distracted thoughts, emotions, or conversations in the cab of responding units.

Reminder: hand-held cell phone use while driving medium or heavy apparatus is forbidden.

Territory Knowledge

Drivers need to know their general route before starting a response. Relying completely upon the MDT or a cell phone or turn-by-turn directions from the officer results in uncertainty, lack of focus on driving, and a spiral into distracted driving that ends with you out of position or in a collision.

Constantly searching for the next turn results in less situational awareness. Do not allow the apparatus to move faster than you can process and organize information.

Mechanical Malfunctions & Alarms

We’ve all been there. As long as apparatus has compartment, seatbelt, fluid, and other alarms they will malfunction. Alarms are designed to be a distraction! If you have alarms that are falsely distracting your drivers submit the repair request and follow-up until it is resolved.

Unsecured Items—dashboard, doghouse, crew area

The dashboard, doghouse, and floorboard should not be a receptacle for every loose item in the cab. Just like the people, any items in the cab should have a secure place to ride. The driver should not be catching sliding map books, helmets, or water bottles every right turn.

Compounding distractions:

Fatigue—Mental or Physical Impairment—Emotions