



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
DRIVER/OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

Practical Application Guide Sheet

Emergency Vehicle: Pre-Trip Inspection

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Performance Competency: The candidate will explain the purpose of and perform a pre-trip inspection on the vehicle. The Pre-Trip Inspection will be completed in accord with Maryland Commercial Motor Vehicle Guidelines.

| Component | Value | Score |
|---|-------|-------|
| VEHICLE OVERVIEW - 5 points | | |
| 1. Park the vehicle on a stable and reasonably level surface. Place a wheel chock to the front and rear of the rear tire. | 1 | |
| 2. Body components and lights intact, not missing, or damaged. | 1 | |
| 3. Look down each side of the body to identify any leaning that may indicate weak or broken suspension components. | 1 | |
| 4. Vehicle Exterior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mirrors secure, clean, and free of defects ✓ Compartment and cab doors latch ✓ Exterior mounted equipment secure | 1 | |
| 5. Look beneath the vehicle for obvious leaks or components hanging loose | 1 | |
| MOTOR COMPARTMENT – 23 points | | |
| 6. Raise hood checking the springs and safety cables; or Tilt cab ensuring piston safety locks engage. Candidate must ensure loose items are secure inside the cab before tilting and overhead is clear. (CFP) | 2 | |
| 7. Check the following fluids for adequate levels and quality as indicated: | | |
| a) Motor Oil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ level should be above the “add” mark; fill as needed ✓ foamy there may be water in the oil ✓ diesel fuel odor may indicate internal motor failure | 2 | |
| b) Coolant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ check level in sight glass or translucent area on reservoir ✓ only fill with proper mixture as provided by CMF | 2 | |
| c) Power Steering Fluid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ level should be above the “low” or “add” mark | 2 | |
| d) Brake Fluid (pre-2007 and post-2015 ambulances) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Check level in both chambers on master cylinder; preferred to view through translucent chambers over removing caps ✓ Observe any signs of leaks | 2 | |

| Component | | Value | Score |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 8. Alternator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely mounted ✓ No loose connections | 1 | |
| 9. Fan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All blades present with no damage ✓ Shroud intact and free of debris | 1 | |
| 10. Radiator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely mounted with cap securely in place ✓ Free of leaks, major debris, and significant damage | 1 | |
| 11. Water Pump | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely mounted ✓ Free of leaks ✓ Candidate will note if the pump is belt or gear driven | 2 | |
| 12. Air Compressor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely mounted ✓ Free of leaks ✓ Candidate will note if the pump is belt or gear driven | 2 | |
| 13. Power Steering Pump | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely mounted ✓ Free of leaks ✓ Candidate will note if the pump is belt or gear driven | 2 | |
| 14. Hoses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of leaks, cuts, cracks, and bulges | 1 | |
| 15. Belts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of cuts, cracks, and fraying ✓ Properly tensioned - less than 3/4" deflection | 1 | |
| 16. Wiring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Securely fastened as appropriate ✓ Free of damage or deterioration ✓ No signs of overheating or melted insulation ✓ Insulation intact ✓ Terminals secure, free of corrosion | 1 | |
| 17. Batteries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of leaks and corrosion ✓ Terminals and connections secure ✓ Batteries secured within box | 1 | |
| STEERING SYSTEM – 12 points | | | |
| 18. Steering system components will be evaluated by the following criteria: No loose or broken components. No welded repairs. No inappropriate movement or slack of any component. | | | |
| a) Steering shaft to steering box | 1 | g) drag link | 1 |
| b) Steering box securely mounted | 1 | h) steering arm | 1 |
| c) Steering box not leaking | 1 | i) castle nut & locking pin | 1 |
| d) Output shaft properly aligned | 1 | j) driver's side lower control arm | 1 |
| e) Pitman Arm | 1 | k) tie rod | 1 |
| f) Castle nut & locking pin | 1 | l) officer's side lower control arm | 1 |
| SUSPENSION SYSTEM – 4 points | | | |
| 19. Spring Mounts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ must be secure to the frame ✓ free from cracks or damage | 1 | |
| 20. Springs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stack must aligned ✓ Free of cracks or obvious deformity ✓ No missing parts or spring leaves | 1 | |

| Component | | Value | Score |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 21. U-bolts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Must not be missing ✓ Free of cracks or deformities ✓ Locking nuts must be present | 1 | |
| 22. Air Suspension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inflates equally ✓ Shock mounts free of cracks or deformity ✓ No obvious leaks | 1 | |
| BRAKE SYSTEM – 14 points | | | |
| 23. Candidate will identify the type of brake system; air or hydraulic. | | 2 | |
| 24. Chambers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No obvious damage or defects | 1 | |
| 25. Pushrods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Must not be overextended ✓ Clevis pins must be in place | 1 | |
| 26. Anti-Lock Wires | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of obvious damage ✓ Must be secured | 1 | |
| 27. Fluid or Air Lines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of cracks, cuts, leaks, or deformity ✓ Securely fastened to chambers | 1 | |
| Front | | Rear | |
| 1 | Disc or Drum | 1 | |
| 1 | No cracks or missing pieces | 1 | |
| 1 | Heat checks on < ½ surface | 1 | |
| 1 | thickness > 1/8” pads or 1/4” shoes | 1 | |
| WHEELS & TIRES – 16 points | | | |
| 28. All tires must be free of damage that exposes the cords and bulges that are indicative of tire core separation. | | | |
| Front | | Rear | |
| Condition | 1 | Condition | 1 |
| Inflation | 1 | Inflation | 1 |
| Depth >4/32” | 1 | Depth >2/32” | 1 |
| Tires match | 1 | Dual tires not touching | 1 |
| Bead not exposed | 1 | Bead not exposed | 1 |
| Wheels not cracked or welded | 1 | Wheels not cracked or welded | 1 |
| Studs and lugs tight | 1 | Studs and lugs tight | 1 |
| Hub oil present & clean | 1 | Mud flaps present, not rubbing tires | 1 |
| UNDERCARRIAGE – 4 points | | | |
| 29. Frame rails and cross members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No bends, sags, or cracks in rails or cross members ✓ No illegal welded repairs ✓ No missing, broken, or loose bolts | 1 | |

| Component | | Value | Score |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|-------|
| 30. Cab, motor, and body mounts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No obvious damage or defects ✓ No loose or broken connections | 1 | |
| 31. Exhaust System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No leaks ✓ All hangers are secure ✓ No significant damage or defects | 1 | |
| 32. Automatic Chains | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No missing components ✓ Securely mounted ✓ Friction rubber on chain wheel intact | 1 | |
| DRIVE LINE – 2 points | | | |
| 33. Drive shaft | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No obvious damage or defects | 1 | |
| 34. U-joint and carrier bearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No missing components or obvious defects ✓ Bearing secure | 1 | |
| FUEL TANK – 3 points | | | |
| 35. Mount | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gaskets and straps in place and secure ✓ No signs of leaks | 1 | |
| 36. Fuel cap | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gasket in place | 1 | |
| 37. Fuel level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visually compare actual level to gauge reading | 1 | |
| IN CAB – 10 points | | | |
| 38. Housekeeping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trash and debris removed ✓ No loose items on the floor or dashboard ✓ Windows reasonably clean | 1 | |
| 39. Defroster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vents clear of blockages ✓ Blower and thermostat function | 1 | |
| 40. Seats & Seatbelts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Seat secured to the floor with no missing fasteners or components ✓ Seat adjusts and locks into position ✓ Seatbelt free of cuts, holes, fraying ✓ Seatbelt buckles and unbuckles freely ✓ Seatbelt retracts and extends freely | 2 | |
| 41. Windshield | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Free of defects that distort vision ✓ Free of cracks ✓ Wipers function; blades intact and make good contact with glass | 1 | |
| 42. Steering Wheel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No defects or damage ✓ No more than 10% free play ✓ Horn functions | 1 | |
| 43. Running Lights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Headlights, taillights, turn signals, marker lights, hazard signals all functional ✓ Light lenses not faded and proper color | 1 | |
| 44. Warning Lights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All lights functioning ✓ Lenses in place with no damage | 1 | |
| 45. Reverse Signals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Audible alarm functioning at proper volume ✓ Reverse lights functioning ✓ Camera functioning | 1 | |
| 46. Safety Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wheel chock(s) present ✓ High visibility vests for each riding position ✓ Six road flares or three triangles present ✓ Fire extinguisher with a rating of greater than 5B:C | 1 | |

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|---|--|-------|-------|
| MOTOR RUNNING – 7 points | | | |
| 47. Gauges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Gauges reading within normal ranges with motor running ✓ Gauges illuminated and legible | 1 | |
| 48. Transmission Fluid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ checked with motor running ✓ transmission in neutral and warmed to 140-160°F ✓ fluid should be reddish color; not brown ✓ brown fluid that smells burnt signals a potential problem | 2 | |
| 49. Listen for abnormal sounds from the motor, belts, mechanical linkages, or other components. | | 2 | |
| 50. Note abnormal smells such as coolant, fuel, or electrical overheating | | 2 | |
| Total Points | | 100 | |

Critical Fail Points

Failure to successfully perform any of the following components will result in an automatic failure of this evolution regardless of total score.

- a) Failing to engage the safety mechanism on a tilt cab prior to starting an inspection
- b) Failure to conduct a thorough examination of any of the following systems as a whole: brakes, steering, tires, and suspension

Evaluator: Initial beside the final outcome of the exam below.

____ **PASS** ____ **FAIL – Overall Points (<70%)** ____ **FAIL – Critical Fail Point**

Evaluator Name

Date

Evaluator Signature