

## SAMPLE Policy – Fire Department Seat Belt Use

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Effective Date:

Authorized by:

Subject:                      Seat Belts and Location of Passengers

Intent:                      This directive establishes a policy which will decrease the chance of injury from vehicle accident while driving or riding in a department vehicle. This directive is also in accordance with NFPA 1500 section 6 – Fire Department Apparatus.

### Policy

1. Personnel driving or riding in any department vehicle must be seated in a seat specifically designed and intended by the vehicle manufacturer for such a purpose. No personnel shall ride in jump seats, on tail or side boards, or other areas outside the vehicle.
2. Personnel who ride in the patient compartment of the ambulance must be seated in the appropriate seat unless the delivery of patient care necessitates otherwise.
3. Seat belts will be used for all occupants of department vehicles or other vehicles used on department business.
4. The driver of any vehicle is responsible to ensure persons riding are properly seated with seat belts fastened, equipment properly secured and the immediate area clear before the vehicle moves unless otherwise directed by an officer.
5. The lack of a properly functioning seat belt or restraint system in a department vehicle shall result in the vehicle being placed out of service.
6. Seat belt use shall be enforced in the same manner, and with the same enforcement tools, as any other work rule. The driver of the vehicle is responsible for enforcing belt use by all occupants. The ranking occupant, if other than the driver shares this responsibility. Peer pressure is a powerful enforcement aid and should be fostered.