



# Safety

## Seatbelt and Safety Restraint Usage S.O.G. 02-12

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### **Scope:**

In order to provide the optimum personal safety for those operating or riding in or on District vehicles or apparatus, this policy is promulgated.

It has been proven that the safe operation of a vehicle or apparatus requires that the operator be properly secured while driving, and all other personnel should be secured while vehicle is in motion. It is also proven that unrestrained passengers become human missiles during a crash and may cause serious injury or death to others in the vehicle.

As Public Safety Officers, we also have a duty to set an example for those whom we serve by being properly restrained at all times while operating or riding in District vehicles or apparatus.

### **Policy:**

It is imperative that all Persons riding in or on motorized vehicles observe the following:

1. All persons must be seated in an approved riding position and must be secured by a seatbelt anytime the vehicle is in motion. Exception: Paramedics/EMT attending a patient in the patient compartment of an ambulance should be secured to whatever extent is practical while still being able to deliver proper medical care. This also applies to authorized passengers who may not be members of the District.
2. Riding on the tailboard, running board, or other exposed positions is strictly prohibited. Passengers will not be permitted to ride in the back of a pickup truck. Exception: During brush fires or a medical call that requires an off road vehicle to bring a victim to an accessible roadway.
3. Standing while riding is prohibited.
4. At no time should anyone dismount a vehicle while it is still in motion.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. It should be the responsibility of each member to comply with the provisions of this policy. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action being taken against those involved.
2. Drivers should not operate their vehicles unless everyone on board is in compliance with the provisions of this policy.
3. Officers should be strictly accountable for enforcing the provisions of this policy and should correct any violations that are observed.