

## What I Need to Know

- Drivers are required to comply with all Australian Road Rules, 1999, and Queensland Acts and Codes namely *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* and *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Road Rules) Regulations 1999*. Drivers of emergency vehicles are personally responsible for any penalties incurred as result of breaking these rules.
- Driving of brigade appliances is required to be in the best interests of the safety and well being of the driver, passengers and other road users. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that no injury to persons or property occurs as a result of the operation of the appliance.
- QFRS personnel who respond to an incident whether or not the vehicle is equipped with emergency warning devices are regarded as:
  - operating the vehicle in their professional capacity; and
  - must not operate the vehicle with a blood alcohol level exceeding zero %.
- Infringements are grounds for disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct and could be cited in any legal proceedings before a Court of Law. Drivers are not to take charge of any QFRS vehicle whilst under the influence of any other substance (including prescribed medication or narcotic drugs), which have the capacity to adversely affect their work performance or driving ability.

## How I do it

- Inform yourself of QFRS requirements set out in Incident Directives, Incident Action Guides and the Field Incident Guide listed in the Reference material.
- The First Officer or officer in charge of the incident is to ensure personnel driving appliances have the appropriate open licence for the vehicle they are driving and are familiar with the type of appliance they are being asked to drive. Learner licence holders are not to drive appliances under operational conditions. Provisional license holders are not to drive appliances using emergency warning devices.
- Drive in compliance with the Australian Road Rules and other applicable legislation at all times.
- Fire appliances must be operated in a highly visible manner with their actions predictable, whilst allowing for the inappropriate actions of others. This means that appliances must not be driven in an aggressive manner that may take other drivers by surprise or force them into taking irrational panic actions.
- Licence Requirements
  - Appliances rated up to 4.5 t GVM require a C Class licence
  - Appliances rated up to 8 t GVM require a LR class licence
  - Appliances rated over 8 t GVM (2 axles only) require a MR class licence
  - Appliances rated over 8 t GVM (no axle limit) require a HR class licence
- Where a towbar is fitted to an appliance, it must comply with the Australian Design Rules and manufacturer's specifications applicable to the type of appliance. The weight of the trailer must not exceed the appliance chassis manufacturer's maximum towing specifications for the appliance.

## Reference Materials

- Operations Doctrine - Incident Directives
  - INCDIR – Driving – 8.1, 8.2, 8.3
- Operations Doctrine - Incident Action Guides
  - IAG – General – 1.1, 1.2
- Field Incident Guide: Pages 84 to 90