

EDDY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS POLICY MANUAL

150 Accidents Involving County Vehicles

PURPOSE

This procedure is to provide a standard system for reporting all fire department vehicular accidents. This procedure is also intended to include any accident on private property and fire department facilities.

PROCEDURE

All vehicle accidents involving Fire Department vehicles must be reported to the Regional Emergency Dispatch Authority (REDA) immediately after the accident. If out of the county, contact the closest emergency dispatch center (call 911) and ask them to notify REDA and contact the Eddy County Fire Marshall's Office.

This report to the REDA will include:

- Your unit ID or apparatus number;
- Your exact location;
- An indication of the need for additional medical assistance;
- An estimate of the extent and nature of vehicle damage or injuries;
- Indication as to whether or not your apparatus/vehicle is drivable

Based on the above information, the REDA will be responsible to:

- Dispatch any additional medical assistance needed;
- Notify the State Police or Sheriff's Department dispatcher of the accident.
- Notify the Eddy County Fire Marshal's Office

While at the accident scene:

- Initiate appropriate medical care as indicated;
- Do not discuss the accident with anyone other than Fire and Police Department representatives;
- Do not move your vehicle unless it is creating a traffic hazard;
- If you must move your vehicle – mark the position of your tires prior to moving;
- Obtain witness' names, addresses and phone numbers;
- Remain at the accident scene until the law enforcement agency representative has completed their investigation.

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As soon as practical following the accident, the senior fire department member should notify either the county Fire Marshall's Office and/or the County Risk Manager, and alert them as to the situation.

Fire district members involved in the accident should not make any statements to, and should be isolated from the general public, the other parties involved in the accident and the news media.

Any Fire Department member involved in an accident shall comply with directions given by the Fire Marshall, Risk Manager, or the County Manager which may include drug and alcohol testing as prescribed in the current County policies.