

Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue
Standard Operating Guidelines

Section #/Title: **Section 9 Training**

Article #/Title: **9.5 Qualifications Standard for Aerial Driver Operator**

Effective Date: **July 17, 2006**

Applies To: **[] Volunteer [] Career [X] Both**

Purpose: **The purpose of this standard is to develop a consistent process for selecting and evaluating personnel who wish to drive and operate an aerial ladder within Shenandoah County.**

I. Standard Defined

For the purpose of this qualifications standard, an aerial ladder shall include, but are not limited to straight ladder trucks, tower ladders, ladder towers, tractor-drawn tiller trucks, snorkels, quints, and may include any other vehicle specifically designated to support fire suppression activity through the use of a permanently mounted ladder.

II. Minimum Driving Qualifications

Candidates for consideration for Aerial Ladder Operator – shall possess the following driving qualifications:

- Be eligible for insurance as determined by the vendor providing insurance to apparatus in consideration. (minimum age, physical capabilities, number of moving violations, etc.)
- Successfully complete an approved Emergency Vehicle Operator Course with the appropriate weight/size endorsement for the apparatus in consideration.
- Be able to demonstrate the capability to safely operate the apparatus in accordance with the standards established by the current insurance vendor.
- Participate in a ten hour* initial driver training program, under non-emergency conditions, with an approved evaluator**.
- Participate in subsequent driver training exercises at a frequency determined by the safety committee, training committee, and/or head operational officer of the agency owning the apparatus.

* Total number of required hours may be altered, at the discretion of the evaluator, based upon the experience and confidence level the individual possesses driving similar apparatus. Additional hours might be required for drivers of tractor-drawn tiller trucks.

** Approved evaluators include head operational officers, EVOC instructors, Training Officers (certified in EVOC and at least one of the following disciplines: Driver Pump Operator, Driver Operator – Aerial, Rural Water Supply, and/or Basic Pump Operations)

III. Minimum Operational Qualifications

Candidates for consideration for Aerial Ladder Operator shall possess the following knowledge and competency as it relates to the primary function of the apparatus.

- Be able to demonstrate familiarity with the location and functionality of portable equipment being carried.
- Be able to demonstrate familiarity with the location and operations of equipment permanently attached to the apparatus (i.e. lighting equipment, air cascade equipment, master stream devices etc.)
- Be able to utilize auxiliary power supply sources such as generators, air systems, and hydraulic pumps (primary and emergency back up).
- Posses a minimum knowledge base of the limitations and capabilities of operating aerial ladders, stabilizing aerial apparatus, positioning aerial apparatus, from one or more of the following courses:
 - DFP – Driver Pump Operator
 - DFP – Driver Pump Operator - Aerial
 - SCFR Aerial Operations Course
- Candidates being evaluated as Aerial Ladder Operators shall participate in an initial aerial operations exercise to demonstrate proficiency in the following: positioning and stabilizing aerial apparatus, abilities to safely operate the aerial, competency in the fundamentals of ladder stress and mechanisms to reduce it, knowledge in securing the moving parts of the aerial, knowledge of the back up the aerial's emergency pump system, and the ability to sustain an elevated master stream using the aerial ladder.
- Participate in subsequent in-service training exercises at a frequency determined by the safety committee, training committee, and/or head operational officer of the agency owning the apparatus.