

**PHOENIX REGIONAL  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**RECRUIT TRAINING VEHICULARS**

M.P. 206.03A

03/09-N

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the operations of recruit training vehiculars. The Fire Department recognizes that recruit vehiculars is a critical phase of the recruit's training, and allows the recruit to experience the actual work of a firefighter. This is done under the close supervision of Recruit Training Officers (RTOs), and it is conducted prior to the recruit leaving the Training Academy and reporting to his or her first probationary station rotation.

This procedure will also ensure the recruit gets a meaningful experience while maintaining a safe environment and allowing for a good communications link between the Training Academy and the Operations Section of the Fire Department.

## **COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TRAINING AND OPERATIONS**

It is critical that the Operations Division is aware of recruit vehicular training and the battalions that this training will be occurring in. In the past, recruit-training companies have added on to incidents and the responding field companies and command officers were not aware of their presence. This can lead to confusion and could be dangerous to the recruits.

The responsibility of notification to Operations of any vehicular training from the Phoenix Fire Department Regional Training Academy (TA) will be the Division Chief of Training. The Division Chief of Training will notify the North, South and West Shift Commanders on all three shifts, via e-mail or telephone, of the dates and times that vehicular training will be conducted.

In addition, the Division Chief of Training will place a notice in the Bucksip and through department e-mail and notify all members of the dates and times that vehicular training will be conducted. This should be done at least one week prior to the date of the training. The training companies should use the vehicle designation of Engines 96 through 99. These vehicle numbers are reserved for the TA and are recognized throughout the automatic aid system as training crews.

The RTOs of the individual training companies will notify the specific Battalion Chiefs of the battalions that the training vehicles will be operating in. For instance, if the vehicular engine will be operating in Station 30's first due, the RTO will notify by phone Battalion 8 and advise the Battalion Chief of the plans to train in that area.

The RTO also needs to contact the captain of the Engine and/or Ladder Company and inform them of the recruit-training vehicle in the area. This will give the assigned Company Officer a heads-up for the training vehicle, and to allow the Company Officer to plan to use the training vehicle in the most safe and positive manner.

If the training company plans to move to another battalion for extended operations, the RTO should call the respective Company Officer and Battalion Chief of the new area and inform them of the vehicular company's plans to operate in their area.

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**RECRUIT COMPANY'S OPERATIONS ON FIELD INCIDENTS**

Phoenix Regional Standard Operating Procedures M.P. 206.03 describes in detail the procedure of Supervising Less Experienced Personnel. This procedure should be understood completely by anyone involved in the supervision of recruit training companies. Some of the critical issues regarding recruit-training companies are the following:

- All Command Officers in charge of an incident that has recruit training companies operating on their incident should be careful of assigning the training crew to any dangerous or critical assignment. Remember that these training crews are usually two Company Officers and up to 4 recruits. This may be difficult to closely supervise the recruits while operating in a critical, fast moving assignment.
- The recruit training vehicles should avoid adding themselves on to incident many miles away from their current location. Driving code three many miles through city traffic increases the exposure of both fire personnel and citizens to unnecessary accidents, and the chances of the training vehicle getting on the incident scene in time to perform is low. The RTO may choose to add on and respond Code 2 outside their assigned response area to provide relief for companies working large/long term fires such as recycle or pallet yard fires.

**TRAINING OPERATIONS OF AUTOMATIC AID AND NON-MUTUAL AID FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

On occasion, recruit training vehicles and crews from other fire departments will operate within the City of Phoenix. This may be done in attempts to have the recruits work in high traffic areas and increase the amount of responses and gain more experience. This is understandable but it must be done through a structured manner.

Any training crews operating inside the City of Phoenix must belong to the Automatic Aid system. This ensures that the recruit personnel and their company officers have training that is compatible with that of Phoenix fire crews. This compatibility will allow for safe and effective fire grounds operations. Any training crews that are from a system that does not follow Regional Standard Operating Procedures (Volume 2) as approved by the Regional Operations Consistency Committee (ROCC) or that is not a member in the Automatic Aid system will not be allowed to operate for training purposes within the City of Phoenix city limits.

Any non-Phoenix training academy vehicular that conforms to the Automatic Aid guidelines may operate within the City of Phoenix boundaries. The Chief in charge of Training for the respective agency should contact the Phoenix Fire Department Training Academy Deputy Chief at least four weeks prior to the commencement of training. The Deputy Chief of the Training Academy will contact the Shift Commanders and request permission for the outside agencies to conduct vehiculars for the desired dates and times. These times and dates will also be placed in the Buckslip and on department e-mail for all members. In addition, the RTOs of the individual training companies will notify the specific Battalion Chiefs of the battalions that the training vehicles will be operating in.

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The communication of this procedure from Phoenix Fire Department to Automatic Aid departments will be through the Deputy Chief of Training of the Phoenix Fire Department. The Training Chief is aware of the other training programs within the Valley, and has established relationships with the other training chiefs.

For uniformity and recognition, any training vehicles from Automatic Aid fire departments should use vehicle designations that involve the numbers 96 through 99. The vehicle number may utilize the numbers of the respective department, followed by 96 – 99. For example, a Glendale training truck may use Engine 1599. A Tempe training truck may be Engine 2799. Since these numbers are recognized as training trucks, this would increase the chances of all officers identifying the company as a training crew and respond accordingly to this procedure and to M. P. 206.03.