

FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 6-1

ISSUE: PERSONS RIDING ON FIRE APPARATUS TAILBOARDS

Studies conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in recent years have proven that firefighters are needlessly injured or killed each year by outdated apparatus riding practices.

Current NFPA standards 1500 "Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program" and 1901 "Automotive Fire Apparatus" as well as safety standards in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia call for firefighters to be transported within the body of the vehicle.

Jump-seats do not provide the protection of enclosed cabs but do provide better protection than tailboards, and should be utilized, instead of tailboards, if available. If personnel ride in jump-seat areas they should be seated and prevented from accidental ejection by safety bars, nets or harnesses approved by the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC).

Where firefighters must ride tailboards because there is insufficient seating either inside or in jump-seats for the number of personnel carried, the following safety precautions are to be followed:

- adequate handles and suitable safety belts or harnesses must be provided as approved by JHSC;
- tailboard surfaces are to provide safe footing;
- no personnel are to stand on the sides of fire apparatus during transport to or from calls;
- each firefighter must have a minimum standing space of 22" x 22" on the tailboard;
- the tailboard shall be sufficient strength for the capacity that may be carried; and

- an electrical signal system or voice communication system between the tailboard and driver's compartment must be provided.

Note: It is safer to transport firefighters in vans, station wagons or other vehicles designed to carry passengers, than to ride the tailboard.

RESCINDED - reference Section 8 (2) of O. Reg. 714/94 and GN #1-1