



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

1150 Riverside Drive, Lewistown PA 17044

www.osfc.pa.gov



Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Course Title: Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT)

Publication Date: 2024

Course Code: EVDT24

Minimum Age: Minimum age of 18 by first day of class

Course Length: 8+ Hours

PA DOH Con-Ed

Lecture / Lab (Hours/Minutes): 8 Hours with additional hours of competency-based driving.

Course #: 1000060738

Prerequisite(s) Minimum age of 18 by first day of class and a valid driver license.

Reference(s) *VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Participant Manual* (2024 Edition)

NOTE: *This course replaces Emergency Vehicle Operator Training (EVOT). Prior EVDT/EVOT certificates will still be honored by the PA State Fire Academy.*

Course Description

The role of the emergency vehicle driver carries great responsibility. The penalty for not adequately training an emergency vehicle driver also carries legal consequences for the emergency service organization and its personnel. Emergency vehicle drivers have been held both criminally and civilly responsible for their actions. VFIS developed this program to teach emergency vehicle drivers proper driving techniques that include the mental as well as the physical aspects of the driving task. The program stresses the long-term impact of a collision involving an emergency vehicle on the emergency vehicle driver, the emergency service organization and the community.

Instructional Methodology(s) Classroom instruction (lecture) with additional hours of competency-based driving.

Each student will drive the course until they show proficiency or up to three (3) times.

Student Equipment/Supplies Pencil/pen, one (1) copy of the current *VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Participant Manual* and an approved emergency vehicle to operate the competency course.

Facility Audiovisual / Equipment / Supplies Instructor will secure LCD projector, computer, appropriate lecture area. All instructors must register an VFIS University account at: www.vfisu.com. The VFIS Instructor Dashboard contains a PowerPoint classroom presentation, information on the competency course, supplemental videos and other resources. A paved surface for the competency course (300' X 300') and approximately 120-150 traffic cones is required.



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Competency Evaluation Mechanism(s)

All students must register an VFIS University account at: www.vfis.com.

Upon completion of the classroom instruction, the instructor should follow the instructions to create a class and enroll users to access the computer-generated quiz. The student must complete the quiz with a minimum score of 80% and a feedback survey to obtain the VFIS EVDT certificate of completion.

Upon completion of the competency course, the instructor should follow the instructions to create a class and enroll users for each type of vehicle utilized. The student must complete a feedback survey to obtain the VFIS Competency Course certificate of completion.

The student must demonstrate proficiency within each skill station to the specifications detailed in Chapter 11:

Demonstrate the following:

- Hand signals and other communication methods used by a spotter.
- Completion of a pre-trip inspection and take appropriate action to correct any deficiencies.
- Effective start-up procedures and exhibit safe driving behavior.
- Proficient driving skill in all of the core exercises.

Proficient skill in at least one of the following supplemental exercise(s):

- Temporary Traffic Control Zone
- Height Clearance
- Weight Restriction
- Ground Clearance
- Other exercises at the discretion of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)

Special Note(s) / Condition(s)

To allow for three (3) times per student on the practical driving course. The maximum class size of twenty-four (24) students. This maximum can only be exceeded with permission from the PSFA Field Education Specialist on a case-by-case basis.

A minimum of one (1) additional EVDT24 Accredited instructor must be employed for the second eight (8) hours of competency course training, regardless of the number of students enrolled.

A fire department should ensure each candidate meets criteria in accordance with its policies, procedures and guidelines. The candidate should review policies, procedures and guidelines with a chief officer or designee of a fire department before being permitted to drive its vehicles. Additional supervised driving should be completed for each type of emergency vehicle before being authorized to drive at a fire department. Each supervised driving session should be documented by the fire department.



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Pre-Course Assignment(s)

Course Outline

Time	Topic
Day One (1): Classroom Session	
8+ hours	Introduction
	Module 1
	Module 2
	Module 3
	Module 4
	Module 5
	Module 6
	Module 7
	Module 8
	Module 9
	Module 10
	Module 11
	Quiz (optional)
Day Two (2): Practical Driving	
Required	Safety Briefing
Required	Module 11 Skills
Required	Competency Course
Optional	Street & Highway Driving (Emergency/Non-Emergency)
	VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Competency Course PA DOH Con-Ed Course # 1000060739 (4.0 Other/EMSVO)
	VFIS Street & Highway Driving Evaluation (Emergency) PA DOH Con-Ed Course # 1000060742 (1.0 Other/EMSVO)
	VFIS Street & Highway Driving Evaluation (Non-Emergency) PA DOH Con-Ed Course # 1000060741 (1.0 Other/EMSVO)



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Learning Objectives - Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to correctly:

Module 1 | Introduction

- Identify the goal of the program.
- Define the importance of the program.
- Identify the components of the VFIS Comprehensive Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Program.

Module 2 | The Problem

- Identify the consequences of emergency vehicle collisions.
- Analyze trends in emergency vehicle collisions and related injuries and fatalities.
- Evaluate emergency vehicle collision case studies.
- Identify common causes, contributing factors and recommendations to prevent emergency vehicle collisions.

Module 3 | The Driver

- Analyze the functional position description of the emergency vehicle driver.
- Identify the numerous human aspects that relate to positive and negative driving behaviors.
- Compare civilian (including commercial) driving with emergency vehicle driving.
- Describe the mindset and actions necessary to be prepared to drive emergency vehicles.

Module 4 | The Role of the Organization

- Define the role of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
- Identify the process for policy, procedure and guideline development.
- Define the selection, qualification and re-qualification process for emergency vehicle drivers.
- Differentiate qualification, certification and authorization of those driving emergency vehicles.
- Describe how policies, procedures and guidelines affect emergency vehicle drivers.
- Identify subject matter contained within ESO policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Analyze policies, procedures and guidelines within participants' organizations.
- Explain/clarify the components of a personnel file.
- Differentiate compliance from non-compliance related to policies, procedures and guidelines.

Module 5 | Legal Aspects

- Define legal terms and principles.
- Differentiate compliance from non-compliance related to rules, regulations and laws.
- Explain the importance of personnel files in the context of a legal proceeding.



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- Define exemptions and immunity related to emergency vehicle operations.
- Identify rules, regulations and laws applicable to emergency vehicles within your state.
- Discuss the impact of laws, standards and requirements on emergency vehicle driver training and operations.
- Describe the legal environment surrounding emergency vehicle collisions.

Module 6 | The Vehicle

- Analyze industry standards related to emergency vehicle design.
- Differentiate common types of emergency vehicles.
- Identify vehicle components and features.
- Identify the levels of vehicle automation.
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of technology-equipped emergency vehicles.

Module 7 | Vehicle Dynamics

- Define the physical forces related to vehicle handling.
- Describe the effects of vehicle weight, measurements, center of gravity and motion on vehicle handling.
- Identify causes and contributing factors of rollover incidents.
- Identify the four road-design features that contribute to rollover incidents.
- Apply the concepts of physical forces that contribute to loss of control.
- List the steps to recover from a potential rollover situation.

Module 8 | Emergency Vehicle Operations + Safety

- Categorize incident types as emergency or non-emergency.
- Describe the importance of emergency dispatch protocols.
- List types of audible and visual signals.
- Differentiate an authorized emergency vehicle from a personally owned vehicle.
- Define the sterile the cab concept.
- Apply the Scan-Identify-Predict-Decide-Execute (SIPDE) system for defensive driving to emergency vehicle response.
- Identify the best practices for navigating intersections.
- Compare intersections equipped with controlled, uncontrolled and pre-emption safeguards.
- Define the roles of the spotter and driver while backing an emergency vehicle.
- Define the roles of the spotter and driver while operating an emergency vehicle in confined spaces.
- Identify hand signals and other communication methods used by a spotter.
- Review the best practices for avoiding collisions.

Module 9 | Scene Safety + Traffic Incident Management

- Recognize the dangers encountered by personnel while operating at an incident scene.



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- Define the role of the driver in scene safety and traffic incident management.
- Describe the purpose of the VFIS Traffic Incident Management and FHWA SHRP2 Traffic Incident Management programs.
- Define terminology related to traffic incident management and highway response.
- Define the components of a temporary traffic control zone.
- Describe the best practices for emergency vehicle placement at an incident scene.
- Identify the best practices for emergency vehicle lighting on the scene.
- List the high-visibility safety apparel requirements for personnel.

Module 10 | Vehicle Inspections + Maintenance

- Define the role of the emergency vehicle driver in vehicle inspections and maintenance.
- Explain the importance of regular vehicle inspections.
- Identify the major components of an emergency vehicle.
- Analyze the pre- and post-trip inspections checklists.
- Analyze industry standards related to inspections and maintenance.
- List the three types of preventive maintenance.
- Describe the importance of keeping accurate and complete records.

Module 11 | Evaluation + Testing

Demonstrate the following:

- Hand signals and other communication methods used by a spotter.
- Completion of a pre-trip inspection and take appropriate action to correct any deficiencies.
- Effective start-up procedures and exhibit safe driving behavior.
- Proficient driving skill in all of the core exercises.

Proficient skill in at least one of the following supplemental exercise(s):

- Temporary Traffic Control Zone
- Height Clearance
- Weight Restriction
- Ground Clearance
- Other exercises at the discretion of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)

**Questions/Comments: Please contact the State Fire Academy
717-248-1115 OR in PA: 1-800-459-4096**



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Revision History

Date	Action	By
2/25/2025	Revised for EVDT 2024	J. Eberly