

Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC)

- Issue/Rationale: A formal emergency vehicle operations course is not part of the standard EMS educational curricula – current or proposed. In an effort to protect persons and property, formal education should be conducted regarding the operation of emergency vehicles. It is believed that the EMS provider organization, rather than the EMS educational program, is in the best position to arrange for an EVOC which meets the provider's needs and may closely emulate the equipment and conditions which the driver is likely to encounter. An EMS provider with drivers who have this formal training may qualify for reduced insurance rates and are likely to enjoy decreased vehicle and other property damage, injuries, and liability.
- Recommendation: Within the first twelve (12) months of affiliation with an EMS provider organization, any person who may drive an EMS emergency vehicle must complete, or provide evidence of completion of, an emergency vehicle operations course. This EVOC curriculum must have didactic and actual driving components.
 - One option is the most recent version of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (Ambulance) National Standard Curriculum. The instructor's manual is available at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/95%20EVOC%20Instructor%20Guide.pdf> Unfortunately, this product was last updated in 1995.
 - Module A contains 16 hours of classroom instruction with 10 separate lesson guides to cover the basic knowledge required for ambulance operators. It includes a sample checklist for both a quick check and full check ambulance inspection, work request forms, hand signals, and test questions. An appendix contains a review of the principles of adult learning and effective presentation techniques. Another appendix discusses some of the training management areas that EMS managers should consider.
 - Module B takes the training to a driving range where participants practice ambulance operator skills. There are 10 exercises in this module with directions on how to set up the exercises and rate a participant's performance.
 - Module C builds on the knowledge and skills the participant learned in the first two modules. A participant begins a series of supervised on -the-job training sessions. This training is necessary because there are operational tasks that cannot be evaluated in other than an operational setting. Participants are assigned to qualified partners who coach and evaluate their performance. Upon completion of the module, organizations issue certificates of completion to successful participants.

- Another option provided by the IAFF and other governmental partners, is “Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety in the Emergency Services” Copyright 2010 (<http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/Best%20Practices.pdf>). A driving component would need to be added.
- Some insurers may require a defensive driving course – this would not typically meet the requirements listed above.