



File Code: 5100 **Date:** April 16, 2018
Route To:
Subject: Emergency Vehicle, Operator Training and Certification – 2018
To: Operators of Emergency Fire Vehicles (Red Lights and Sirens)

The direction regarding the safe and effective use of Red Light and Sirens went into effect on April 26, 2010. The Prescott National Forest (PNF) and its emergency vehicle operators have maintained a high degree of professionalism and exercised good judgment in the appropriate use of the emergency equipment. This expertise is expected to continue. As a certified Emergency Vehicle Operator, you are expected to be familiar with FSM 5120, the 2017 *Southwestern Region Fire Emergency Vehicle Operations Plan*, the 2018 PNF EVO Plan, the 2018 PNF EVO JHA, and the required forms. These can be found in the 2018 PNF Fire Management Reference System, [Folder 1.3](#).

If you are not a certified Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVO), use of Red Lights and Sirens in any capacity is prohibited.

On the PNF, and as outlined in FSM 5120 and FSH 5109.16, Chapter 30, the use of Red Lights and Sirens are only authorized for Forest Service emergency vehicles in compliance with applicable State statutes for emergency vehicle operations as follows:

- Initial attack resources responding to an incident where public or firefighter safety is threatened, or major property or resource damage is occurring on National Forest System lands or under immediate threat from adjacent lands. Circumstances exist where traffic congestion has resulted in either a complete stoppage of traffic, or has slowed to an extent it impedes normal and safe progress of the vehicle.
- Parked or travelling on or alongside Forest Service, local, County, State, or Federal roads and highways during wildfires, prescribed fires, and other emergency responses where identification of parked or moving vehicles is needed to prevent collision impacts from other vehicles, and for safety purposes due to smoke conditions, adverse weather, and other conditions that result in poor or impaired visibility.

Individuals operating Forest Service fire fleet vehicles outfitted with a Red Lights and Sirens package (Special Equipment – Emergency Vehicle, FSH 7109.19, Chapter 60) are required to complete the steps outlined in the 2018 EVO Plan prior to EVO certification (all forms and the Plan are located in the [PNF Fire Management Reference System, 1.3](#)).



INITIAL CERTIFICATION:

1. Submit the following forms/items to the Zone FMO for consideration into the EVO program (First-time certification):
 - FS-7100-184 Application for Authorization to Operate Government Vehicles & Equipment form with Section I completed. Section II will be completed by the applicant's supervisor - Section III will be completed by the Zone FMO or Deputy Fire Staff Officer - Section IV will be completed by the EVO Certifying Official.
 - A copy of your State Driver's License
 - OF-345 (Physical Fitness Inquiry for Motor Vehicle Operators)
 - As appropriate, a current CDL Medical Card
 - Driver History Consent Form will be used by the Forest Fleet Manager or EVO Certifying Officials to obtain your Motor Vehicle Record. If you have a license in a state other than AZ, it will be your responsibility to work with that motor vehicle division to get a copy of your record.
 - Supervisor Authorization for Motor Vehicle Operation form which identifies the type of vehicles the applicant is authorized to drive.
 - A completed Emergency Vehicle Operator Evaluation & Certification Task Book This book will need to be signed by the EVO classroom instructor and by the driver proficiency evaluator prior to approval by the EVO Certifying Official.
2. Successfully complete the classroom portion of Emergency Vehicle Operator training with a passing score (initial requirement suggested min 8 hrs and every 3 years thereafter). Completion of this training needs to be documented in the Prescott NF Emergency Vehicle Operator Evaluation & Certification Task Book for the initial certification and on the Prescott NF - EVO Appendix D every 3 years thereafter. You will need the course instructor's signature in the EVO Classroom Training block of the task book. The task book needs to be submitted with the completed package to the Deputy Fire Staff Officer or Zone FMO.
3. Successfully complete the Driver/Operator Proficiency Evaluation (annual requirement). Completion of this training needs to be documented in the Prescott NF Emergency Vehicle Operator Evaluation & Certification Task Book for the initial certification and on the PNF - EVO Appendix D every year thereafter. You will need the course instructor's signature in the EVO Driver/Operator Proficiency Evaluation block of the task book. The task book needs to be submitted with the completed package to the Deputy Fire Staff Officer or Zone FMO.

Zone FMO will submit all completed forms with signatures to the Forest Fleet Manager for final review and issuance of an agency Motor Vehicle Operator ID, OF-346. The Forest Fleet Manager will catalog receipt of each EVO's forms and verification of the driver's record. The catalog will be reviewed by the EVO Certifying Official annually.

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION

After an individual is initially certified as an EVO, the continuing training (min 4 hrs) and annual refresher training (suggested min 8 hrs) will be documented on the Prescott NF – EVO Appendix D.

1. Appendix D will need to be submitted annually with the Driver History Consent Form. The information on this form will be used to obtain the operator's annual Motor Vehicle Record.
2. Successfully complete the Driver/Operator Proficiency Evaluation (annual requirement). Completion of this training needs to be documented initially in the PNF Emergency Vehicle Operator Evaluation & Certification Task Book. Annual recurring proficiency evaluation & training must be documented on the Prescott NF - EVO Appendix D every year thereafter.

Zone FMO will submit all completed forms with signatures to the Forest Fleet Manager for final review and issuance of an agency Motor Vehicle Operator ID, OF-346. The Forest Fleet Manager will catalog receipt of each EVO's forms and verification of the driver's record. The catalog will be reviewed by the EVO Certifying Official annually.

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION WITH CHANGES:

If the Operator has changes to medical condition and/or changes in the type of vehicles to be operated:

- Complete all documentation listed above within the INITIAL CERTIFICATION, Step 1; *except* the Emergency Vehicle Operator Evaluation & Certification Task Book
- Submit all completed documentation to Zone FMO for approval and signature
- Forest Fleet Manager or EVO Certifying Official will pull MVR

The Forest Supervisor has delegated authority to me, Pete Gordon, Fire Staff Officer and Jeff Andrews, Deputy Fire Staff Officer to serve as the Forest Emergency Vehicle Operator Certifying Officials and to Ophelia Goatson-James, PNF Fleet Manager to verify sensitive AZ MVD records. This means **Pete, Jeff, or Ophelia are the only individuals who can verify EVOs' compliance prior to the Forest Fleet Manager issuing the OF-346 (U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator's Identification Card) card with an EVO-Red Lights and Sirens endorsement.** Confidential records will be maintained in a secure location. EVOs will not be certified if any of the following apply:

- a. Three or more moving violations in the past 3 years.
- b. Three or more preventable accidents in the past 3 years.
- c. One or more citations for driving under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol in the past 3 years.
- d. Less than 3 years of driving experience.
- e. Less than 21 years of age.

Additional information, specific to Emergency Vehicle Operations on the Prescott National Forest can be found in the annual Prescott NF Fire Management Plan as an appendix – Emergency Vehicle Operations Program.

Should you have questions regarding the EVO certification process, please contact me, Jeff Andrews, Deputy Fire Staff Officer at 928-777-5650, or Ophelia Goatson-James, Forest Fleet Manager at 928-443-8172.

/s/ Pete Gordon

PETER GORDON

Fuels, Fire, & Aviation Staff Officer

cc: Dale Dieter, Sarah Tomsy, Todd Willard, Jeffrey Andrews, Brian T Steinhardt, Aaron Hulburd, Steven Kelly, Jon Sams, Ophelia Goatson-James, Kendra Bull, Bradley Ament