



**NC LEAGUE**  
OF MUNICIPALITIES  
RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST | WORKERS' COMPENSATION | PROPERTY & LIABILITY

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## EMERGENCY SERVICES BULLETIN

### WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS WILL ALL OF YOUR APPARATUS ARRIVE SAFELY?

**In recent years we have experienced serious accidents caused by both brake and tire failure! Not only should you be aware of the age of tires currently on vehicles; but also those you may have in-stock or when purchasing. Each tire contains a 3 or 4 digit numerical code; the first two digits indicate the week of manufacture, the last two indicate the year.**

When emergency equipment and personnel are dispatched, the number #1 priority should be to respond in a safe and timely manner.

“Arriving Safely” requires that personnel are properly trained, qualified; and that maintenance of vehicles / equipment are critical. In this bulletin we review these two key issues.

**Driver Qualifications:** NFPA 1002 establishes for both professional and volunteer organizations specific standards for Qualifying Engine-Operator, Aerial-Tiller, Wildlands, and Tanker-Mobile Operators. Every Department should review these practices and ensure that Drivers/ Operators are fully in compliance.

NIOSH **Fatality** Investigations reveal that over the past ten years there have been 46 vehicle crashes that have resulted in 50 fatalities and 24 serious injuries to Firefighters (No data was available on the number of others that may have been killed or injured). Another factor that caught my attention was that almost 40% of these wrecks (16) involved Tanker Rollover Accidents.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** NFPA 1911 provides detailed maintenance procedures and timelines. Wheels, tires, steering and braking systems are among of the most important items that must be near the top on your priority list. Chapter 6 and 7 address the components that require attention.

## **KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- Maintenance and repairs shall be made in accordance with the manufactures recommendations (NFPA1911,Chapter 4.6.1)
- Tires shall be inspected for damage and shall be inflated to the tire manufacture's recommended pressure (NFPA1911,Chapter 7.3.3)
- Tires shall be replaced at least every 7 years or more frequently when the tread wear exceeds State or Federal Standards, as determined by tread depth gauge. (NFPA 1911, Chapter 7.3.4)

If you have any further questions or concerns do not hesitate to call us at the League at 1-800-228-0986. We look forward to providing you professional risk management services.

For additional information contact risk management services at **1- 800-228-0986** and select **“safety and risk control”** from the available options.

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