

## C-69 Off Road Use Of Fire Vehicles

## **Emergency Manual**

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## Policy/Procedure

**NOTE:** Most Toledo Fire and Rescue Department vehicles are not designed to operate off-road. Special consideration must be given to an incident prior to deciding to utilize a TFRD vehicle in that manner. The following guidelines apply:

- 1. The officer assumes all responsibility when taking Department vehicles off the road.
- **2.** There are situations where the incident may justify the risk of demobilizing a unit due to soft ground. Utilizing the vehicle to prevent loss of life, protecting exposures, or extinguishing a structure fire where building access can only be achieved by driving off the road, are such instances. A grass or rubbish fire off the road, in which there was no danger of spread to valuable structures or areas of importance, would not be worth the risk. In these situations, other means shall be used to mitigate the incident.
- **3.** The responding Battalion Chief, if one is responding, should be notified prior to taking any apparatus off the road so that provisions for replacement of the unit in the running order may be anticipated and planned for, if necessary.
- **4.** If no Battalion Chief is dispatched on the incident, the Incident Commander shall direct Dispatch to notify the district's Battalion Chief to convey tactics and reach a consensus regarding the wisdom of the decision to proceed.

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