

## Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

### Vehicle Operations

Operation of a Catawba County EMS vehicle requires careful skill and awareness of other drivers. This policy discusses areas that are necessary for careful vehicle operation.

- Training
  - New or reserve employees will be required to pass driving skill evaluation and requirements for pre employment, prior to operating an ambulance.
- Shore lines
  - Ambulances should be parked in bay area when possible and plugged in to the shorelines to maintain adequate charge on batteries.
- Backing
  - The driver should have someone at the rear of the ambulance, on the driver side, observing the area and directing the driver while backing. The driver should stop immediately any time they lose sight of the person directing in the mirror.
- Emergency Response
  - Notify communications any time level of response is changed from the level of initial dispatch. Driver should respond obeying all traffic laws and in a safe manner.
- When approaching a school bus with a stop sign displayed.
  - An ambulance shall not pass a stopped school bus displaying a stop sign.
  - An ambulance's running lights and siren must be turned off prior to passing the bus. When stopping the unit, the paramedic should position the ambulance so the bus driver can easily see the unit. For example, when approaching from the rear, the ambulance should make sure the left lane is clear, and then position the ambulance in the left lane at the rear of the bus. Once the bus driver has insured the safety of the students, he/she should lower the stop sign, allowing the ambulance to proceed slowly and with caution around the bus.
- Accidents
  - Personnel should follow guidelines as written in the "Policy for EMS Vehicle Accidents" located in the accident manual that is kept in each unit.