



# Manhattan Fire Protection District

SOP #: 200-2	Effective Date: 12/01/07	Revised Date: 07/01/16
Section: Protective Clothing & Equipment		
Subject: Seatbelt & Safety Restraints		

## **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the standing operating procedure is to ensure the optimum personal safety for any person operating or riding in District apparatus or vehicles.

## **SCOPE:**

This procedure shall apply to all members of the Manhattan Fire Protection District.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

None

## **GUIDELINE:**

It is imperative that all Persons riding in or on motorized vehicles observe the following:

1. All persons must be seated in an approved riding position and must be secured by a seatbelt anytime the vehicle is in motion. This also applies to authorized passengers who may not be members of the District. Exception: Paramedics/EMT attending a patient in the patient compartment of an ambulance should be secured to whatever extent is practical while still being able to deliver proper medical care.
2. Riding on the tailboard, running board, or other exposed position is strictly prohibited. Passengers will not be permitted to ride in the back of a pickup truck. Exception: During brush fires or a medical call that requires an off road vehicle to bring a victim to an accessible roadway.
3. At no time should anyone dismount a vehicle while it is still in motion.

## **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Drivers should not operate their vehicles unless everyone on board is in the compliance with the provisions of this procedure. Officers should be strictly accountable for enforcing the provisions of this procedure and should correct any violations that are observed.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

It has been proven that the safe operation of a vehicle or apparatus requires that the operator be properly secured while driving, and all other personnel should be secured while the vehicle is in motion. It is also proven that unrestrained passengers become human missiles during a crash and may cause serious injury or death to others in the vehicle. As Public Safety Officers, we also have a duty to set an example for those whom we serve by being properly restrained at all times while operating or riding in District vehicles or apparatus.

## **Approved By:**

Signature: Daniel Forsythe

Date: 07/01/16