

FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 1-2

ISSUE: **VEHICLE INSPECTIONS & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

Annual Commercial Vehicle Inspections

All fire apparatus with a gross weight, registered gross weight or manufacturers gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 4500 kilograms must be inspected on an annual basis (in accordance with O. Reg. 611 Safety Inspections, made under the Highway Traffic Act). These vehicles are required to display an inspection sticker as evidence of compliance with this requirement.

Inspections must be conducted at a Motor Vehicle Inspection Station licensed by the Ministry of Transportation. Fire departments or municipalities may apply to be licensed to conduct inspections themselves if they have a certified mechanic, appropriate tools and a suitable shop facility.

For more information on the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program contact your local Ministry of Transportation Enforcement Office.

Driver Inspections

A “commercial motor vehicle” for the purpose of Section 107 of the Highway Traffic Act and O. Reg. 199/07 Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspections (made under the Highway Traffic Act) does not include fire apparatus. As such, the daily inspection requirements do not apply to fire department vehicles. Despite this exemption, it is recommended as a good health and safety practice for fire departments to train firefighters on conducting driver inspections and to establish procedures for the inspections to be conducted on all fire apparatus.

Vehicle inspections should be completed at either the beginning of each shift or thereafter as soon as reasonably possible if disrupted to respond to an emergency call. If it is not possible to inspect a vehicle prior to an emergency call, a post emergency call vehicle inspection should be conducted. Vehicle inspections should be accurately documented. Further, firefighters should continually monitor the vehicle during the course of the work shift to detect the presence of any major or minor defects.

Vehicle Preventative Maintenance Program

In addition to the annual inspections, fire departments should develop a preventative maintenance program inspecting the vehicles at a regular interval to ensure the vehicle is safe and will not jeopardize the safety of other road users or the occupants of the apparatus. A

record of these inspections including the date, odometer reading and the nature of inspection and any subsequent repairs should be kept by the department.

At the time of licensing, vehicles should be weighed to ensure safe overall weight and weight distribution. Fire departments should consider the impact of equipment redistribution that may affect overall balance/weight of the vehicle.