



Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Administrative Policy	
Subject:	Seatbelt Use
Reference Number:	Apparatus 04-007
Effective Date:	15-Jun-12
Last Revision Date:	6-May-16
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

Purpose: Establish a guideline for use of a seat belt while in an emergency vehicle.

Policy: Occupants of front seats and family members riding in rear of ambulance are required to wear safety belts while vehicle is in motion.

- There are no exceptions for front seat occupants or family members seated in the patient care area.
- All patient care providers shall wear the 5-point seatbelt provided in the patient care area of ambulances so equipped.
- A child that is a patient under the age of eight shall be in an appropriate car seat provided by patient's family or pre-manufactured seat installed in ambulance.
- This policy involves a life safety issue. Therefore, the customary "verbal, written, release" procedure for employees will not apply. The first offense will be documented in writing. The second offense in a year can result in termination or time off without pay.

Exceptions:

- If you need to call a report to a receiving hospital.
- You are required to provide care outside of the limits of the restraint.

Relevant Virginia State Laws (ref. Code of Virginia online):

§ 46.2-1094. Occupants of front seats of motor vehicles required to use safety lap belts and shoulder harnesses; penalty.

A. Any driver, and any other person at least 18 years of age and occupying the front seat, of a motor vehicle equipped or required by the provisions of this title to be equipped with a safety belt system, consisting of lap belts, shoulder harnesses, combinations thereof or similar devices, shall wear the appropriate safety belt system at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion on any public highway. A passenger under the age of 18 years, however, shall be protected as required by the provisions of Article 13 (§ [46.2-1095](#) et seq.) of this chapter.

§ 46.2-1095. Child restraint devices required when transporting certain children; safety belts for passengers less than eighteen years old required; penalty.

A. Any person who drives on the highways of Virginia any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall ensure that any child, up to age eight, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device of a type which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation. Further, rear-facing child restraint devices shall be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.