

PLAINSBORO TOWNSHIP BOARD of FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FIRE DISTRICT No. 1
VEHICLE USE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE: This guideline is established for the purpose of eliminating the need to speculate as to whether or not proposed use for a district owned or controlled vehicle falls within the parameters originally intended.

VEHICLES: Currently the Plainsboro Fire District/Plainsboro Fire Co. own and are responsible for five (5) vehicles not intended directly for firefighting.

Chief 49, assigned to the Fire Chief

Deputy 49, assigned to the Deputy Fire Chief

Utility 49, available for general use, and is not intended to be assigned as a first response vehicle

Car 49, available for general use, and is not intended to be assigned as a first response vehicle

Car 49-1, available for general use, and is not intended to be assigned as a first response vehicle

CHIEF 49: this vehicle is intended to be a first response vehicle. It is to be kept in the possession and disposal of the Fire Chief at all times. The Fire Chief may use the vehicle for transportation to and from work as long as the Fire Chief is able to and intends to respond to fire and emergency calls. Exceptions to the above may be granted if the Fire Chief works within the Township of Plainsboro. If the vehicle is used for transportation to and from work it may not be used as a business work vehicle. If the vehicle does not fit the above guidelines the Fire Chief may be required to house the vehicle at the firehouse during normal work hours, this shall be solely at the discretion of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

The Fire Chief may use the vehicle for personal use as long as the Fire Chief is within a reasonable response distance (usually considered not more than a twenty minute response time) from the Township of Plainsboro and intends to respond to fire and emergency calls. The Board of Fire Commissioners may grant exceptions to this. In cases where the Fire Chief plans to be out of response range (as defined above) for more than twenty four (24) hour period the vehicle shall be returned to the firehouse.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible to keep the vehicle in a clean and orderly condition, monitor general service requirements and or other mechanical issues and report any concerns or problems to the Fire District Engineer.

DEPUTY 49: this vehicle is intended to be a first response vehicle. It is to be kept in the possession and disposal of the Deputy Chief at all times. The Deputy Chief may use the vehicle for transportation to and from work as long as the Deputy Chief is able to and intends to respond to fire and emergency calls. Exceptions to the above may be granted if the Deputy Chief works

within the Township of Plainsboro. If the Vehicle is used for transportation to and from work it may not be used as a business work vehicle. If the vehicle does not fit the above guidelines the Deputy Chief may be required to house the vehicle at the firehouse during normal work hours, this shall be solely at the discretion of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Deputy Chief may use the vehicle for personal use as long as the Deputy Chief is within a reasonable response distance (usually considered not more than a twenty minute response time) from the Township of Plainsboro and intends to respond to fire and emergency calls. The Board of Fire Commissioners may grant exceptions to this. In cases where the Deputy Chief plans to be out of response range (as defined above) for more than twenty four (24) hour period the vehicle shall be returned to the firehouse.

The Deputy Chief shall be responsible to keep the vehicle in a clean and orderly condition, monitor general service requirements and or other mechanical issues and report any concerns or problems to the Fire District Engineer.

UTILITY 49: the vehicle is intended to be available for general use and support of Fire Co. and Fire District activities and not be assigned as a first response vehicle. Exceptions to this may be granted if the vehicle assigned to the Fire Chief or Deputy Chief is in for service or repairs, or with the approval of the Board of Fire Commissioners. If the vehicle is used as a first response vehicle all rules governing the **Chief 49** and **Deputy 49** vehicles shall apply. Personal use of this vehicle by members of the Plainsboro Fire Co. or Board of Fire Commissioners should be discouraged but is not prohibited. The Fire Chief, ranking fire officer or a Fire Commissioner may grant approval for this use. **Utility 49 with snow plow**, the main purpose of Utility 49 with the snow plow is to maintain the Fire District property assuring access to the building. With approval of the Fire Chief or senior officer in the absence of the Fire Chief the vehicle may be used to assist with the response of Fire Company, Police Department or Rescue Squad vehicles during an emergency. If requested and approved, the vehicle may be used to provide assistance in and around the Rescue Squad or Municipal Center Buildings or to assist members of the Fire Company. Operators of the vehicle should have an understanding of the operation of the vehicle and plow, and use caution while the vehicle is in use.

Ladder 49, Eng. 49, Squad 49, Tower 49, Brush 49, Special Services 49, Tanker 49 and Rescue 49: These vehicles are to be used to fight fires and respond to emergency calls in a manner consistent with normal firefighting standards and in accordance with the Plainsboro Fire Company/Fire District Standard Operating Guidelines.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: There are bound to be individual occasions when a need will arise which require that a special exception be made to the above regulations and such instances will be considered and voted on by the Board of Fire Commissioners. In extreme cases, when time does not permit the Fire Chief or ranking officer to arrange for Commissioner approval, the Fire Chief or ranking officer shall be authorized to make the vehicle use decision. The circumstances surrounding the decision must be relayed to the Board of Fire Commissioners at the next meeting.