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## Introduction

The intended purpose of this course is to introduce new and existing volunteer members to the responsibilities and suitable attitude necessary to drive and maintain a NTFRS appliance/vehicle under normal road and emergency driving conditions.

**This is not a driving course** - PUAVEH001 Drive vehicles under operational conditions is a requirement to drive NTFRS vehicles under lights and sirens; this unit is only available to full time members.

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## Content

- NT Licences & Qualifications
- Driver responsibility
- Lights and Sirens (EVD)
- Siting vehicles at incidents
- Fatigue
- Maintenance / damage / accidents

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## NT Licences & Qualifications

All drivers must be licensed to drive a chosen vehicle in the specified class

Classes of licences include:

- **C Class** - < 4.5 tonnes
- **LR - Light Rigid** - > 4.5 tonnes and up to 8 tonnes
- **MR - Medium Rigid** - > 8 tonnes with 2 axles
- **HR - Heavy Rigid** - > 8 tonnes with 3 axles

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## Obtaining Licences

**To get a LR or MR:** Members must have held a C class licence for at least a year

**To get a HR:** must of held a C class for two years or a LR or MR for one year

Theory tests for heavy vehicles (LR, MR, HR) must be completed at MVR.

The practical driving assessment is completed through an external examiner or internally through the NTFRS authorised heavy vehicle examiner.

More information found at MVR or through [Fire.VolunteerTraining@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:Fire.VolunteerTraining@pfes.nt.gov.au)

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## Licence Classes “C”

“A motor vehicle that has a Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) not greater than 4.5 tonnes and that is constructed or equipped to seat not more than 12 adults (including the driver), other than a taxi, private hire car, tourist vehicle, motor omnibus, a special passenger vehicle, motorcycle or motor trike”.



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## Licence Classes LR

A motor vehicle that has a gross vehicle mass (GVM) greater than 4.5 tonnes, but not greater than 8 tonnes or is constructed or equipped to seat more than 12 adults (including the driver).



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## Licence Classes MR

A rigid motor vehicle that has two (2) axles and a gross vehicle mass (GVM) greater than 8 tonnes.

Any trailer towed must weigh less than 9 tonnes GVM and comply with the manufacturer's Gross Combination Mass (GCM) limit for the towing vehicle.



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## Licence Classes HR

A heavy vehicle has a gross vehicle mass (GVM) or aggregate trailer mass (ATM) of more than 8 tonnes, and 3 or more axles.



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## “L” and “P” Licences

Learner and Provisional drivers shall not operate an NTFRS vehicle without permission of the Station Officer/Captain.

They must be accompanied by a licenced operator.

Appropriate “L” or “P” plates must be displayed as per Australian road rules.

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## Driver Responsibility

- Possess an appropriate license for the vehicle type
- Captain's authorization to operate the vehicle
- Must comply with all road rules at all times
- Responsible for the safety of all passengers
- Accountable for the vehicle's load
- Know your own limitations & avoid aggressive driving
- Drivers **must** have a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of **zero** and be free from illicit drugs.

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## Driver Responsibility

- Remain alert to changing road conditions
- All vehicle movements must be reported to JESCC
  - Vehicle identification
  - Responding to incident
  - Number and names of crew
- Driver to notify Captain/Team Leader of repairs/damage
- Breakdowns managed through OIC/Captain
- Accidents must be reported immediately through OIC/Captain

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## Lights and Sirens (EVD)

- Drivers responding to emergency incidents must obey all prescribed speed limits and all traffic regulations
- Under no circumstances should drivers breach traffic lights
- Auxiliary Firefighters (AFF) and Volunteer Firefighters (VFF) must not use emergency lights and/or sirens when responding to incidents
- Emergency lights may only be activated when on scene or on the fire ground

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## Siting vehicles at incidents

- Position the vehicle to prevent injury to crew and the public while ensuring access to the incident.
- Avoid exposing crew members to general traffic or positioning them in the path of other emergency vehicles.
- Always face the vehicle towards an escape route.

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## Siting vehicles at incidents

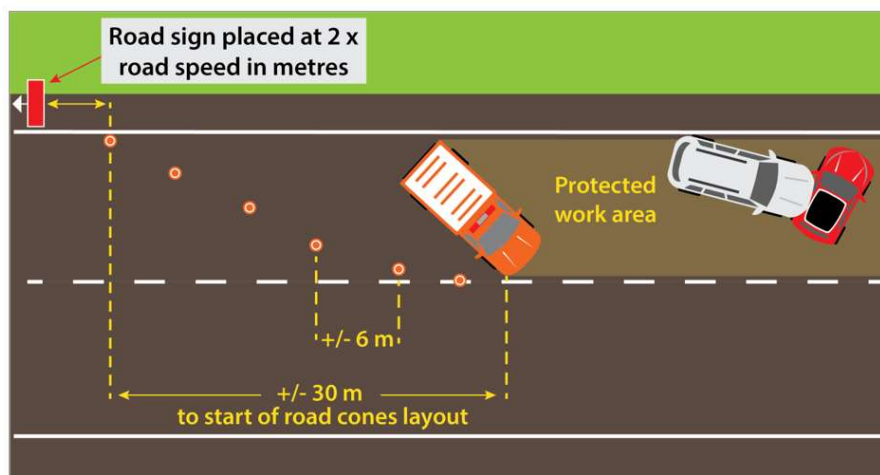
- Consider the effect of vehicle headlights on oncoming traffic.
- Avoid placing the vehicle on bends, crests of hills, or other positions where it may be obscured to approaching vehicles.
- If there is no alternative location, use a crew member, flashing beacons/eFlares, or witches' hats to alert oncoming traffic at a safe distance

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### The fend-off position



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## Siting vehicles at incidents

- At hazardous materials incidents, position the vehicle up-wind & up-hill & at a safe distance
- Be aware of power lines, buildings, and trees at fires, avoid positioning the vehicle, crew, or any equipment under these structures, as they may collapse.
- Look out for hydrant points in urban areas & take care not to block access to them

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## Fatigue

Fatigue is the result of long term state of acute tiredness or lack of good quality sleep and can affect the health and safety of drivers.

- Fatigue is sometimes referred to as the silent killer and is the major of heavy vehicle and bus crashes.
- The treatment for fatigue is rest of good quality and the correct amount of sleep.
- Fatigue is very similar to drink driving!

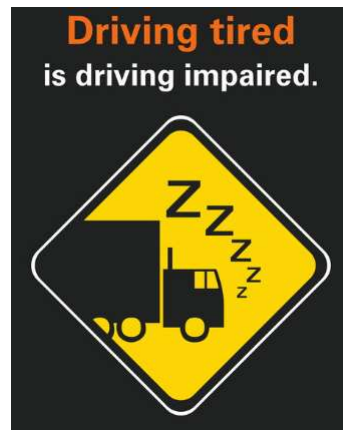
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## Fatigue-causes

- Long periods of work
- Lack of proper sleep
- Poor health and fitness
- Emotional issues
- Grief
- Workplace stress
- Burnout
- Depression



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## Fatigue

- Constant yawning
- Blurred vision
- Sore or heavy eyes
- Poor concentration
- Variations in driving speed
- Letting your vehicle drift out of lanes
- Difficulty remembering the last few kilometres
- Impatience

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## Maintenance / Damage

- Scheduled maintenance is through Special Operations (Formally CDC)
- Vehicle check as per stations routine
- Captain / OIC attention is required if any fault is identified.
- Complete vehicle maintenance report as per NTFRS SOPs
- Arrange delivery to workshops through Special Operations (Formally CDC)

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## Accidents involving a NTFRS vehicle

- Stop immediately and render assistance
- Notify Police through JESCC for attendance
- Report to Captain / OIC
- Exchange details- do not admit responsibility
- Seek witnesses
- Complete Accident report form

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