

**Firefighters Driving on a License from Another State**  
**Bonnie Jones and Dennis Wolf**

**Q: In Tennessee, are firefighters required to have a valid Tennessee driver's license to operate vehicles and work in the full capacity of a fire fighter?**

A: No. In Tennessee, as long as they have a regular driver's license that is valid, it does not have to be issued from Tennessee and no special designation is required.

There is no rule of the state firefighting commission or anything in state law that requires a driver of a fire apparatus to have a Tennessee driver license. The department of safety requires that the driver of a fire truck have a valid operator's license.

- Firefighters are not required to have commercial driver's license, even if operating a fire truck
- State rule 1340-1-13-07(2)(b) (Dept. of Safety) provides exemption for emergency vehicle drivers
- Applies to paid and unpaid personnel
- Only required to have regular driver's license with no special designation

If the city does not have a requirement that employees have a Tennessee driver license, then the person can drive on a license from another state.

It is advisable for the city to ask their insurance carrier if they see any additional risk in this situation.

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