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DIRECTIVE

NO.: 12-001
DATE: February 1, 2012
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Jeff Carle, Assistant Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Seat Belt Usage
DISPOSITION: Read/Post/Retain

It has come to my attention that some employees of San Diego Fire-Rescue are routinely fastening their seatbelt behind them at times when the vehicle is in motion, or are disabling the warning device that confirms use of the seatbelt. Either situation is completely unacceptable, and will not be tolerated.

Fastening a seatbelt behind you during a response is not a mark of courage nor an appropriate attempt to be faster and more efficient upon arrival at an emergency incident. It is a sign that you are willing to violate state law, as well as the Operations Manual Standard Instruction 01, Section 9 G. 1 "Safe Driving Practices". It is also an indication that you do not take your personal safety, the safety of your crew or the well being of your family and loved ones seriously.

All personnel are again hereby directed to wear their seatbelts at all times when riding in or driving San Diego Fire-Rescue apparatus, including all support vehicles. Violation of this directive will result in an immediate suspension of the responsible party for flagrant disregard of a direct order to comply with a safety regulation. In addition, an investigation will be conducted to determine if other crewmembers were aware of the violation but allowed the violation to occur without intervention. If so, responsible parties will also be disciplined.

Any questions regarding this directive or the department's planned response to further violation should be routed through your chain of command.