Social Distancing in a Vehicle

April 2, 2020

This guidance is intended to address the present COVID-19 situation while we continue to provide the vital services and work of the Department.

In an effort to limit exposure to COVID-19 while in a vehicle, Department Managers will follow the below guidance when assigning vehicles.

- The goal is to have no more than one person per vehicle.
- When it is not possible to meet that goal, no more than two people shall be assigned to a vehicle.
- No more than one person shall occupy a row in a vehicle. The passenger shall sit on passenger’s side of the vehicle in the furthest rear row from the vehicle operator.
- Where available respirators shall be offered to both persons in the vehicle.

It is understood that these guidelines will impact certain important Department Operations such as equipment certifications. These operations may be suspended if deemed non-critical by the respective Main Office Program manager.

This policy is not intended to limit the Department’s response to emergencies or mission critical work. Unforeseen emergency situations may warrant a deviation from this guidance – on a case by case basis. Questions should be directed through the Regional Chain of Command to the Main Office Program Managers and Director of Employee Safety and Health.

Before and After Operating a Department Vehicle: Cleaning Instructions

Focus on Common Vehicle Touchpoints

Clean the places you come into contact with the most. Besides the obvious places such as a door handle, key fob, turn signal and steering wheel, the most important part of the interior to keep clean is the dashboard. Other places to clean include the inside door buttons, seat belts, gear shifters and touchscreens. Clean door handles and other exterior touch points as well. The CDC recommends cleaning and disinfecting touched surfaces daily.

Set the climate control settings so that air is brought in from outside air and air inside the car is not being circulated.

Use hand sanitizers after touching gas pump handles and keypads at gas stations.

We are all in this together. These practices may not seem critical, but they are all very important. Working together we can have a big impact and a more positive outcome.