

**EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

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**ARTICLE 4: ROUTINE PROCEDURE**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**SECTION 8: APPARATUS CHECKS**

**REVISED: 07-01-2020**

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**4.8.1 PURPOSE:**

All apparatus checks are to be completed as soon as possible after the start of the shift and after the response to emergency calls.

**4.8.2 PROCEDURE:** Weekly, Monthly, Post Fire Apparatus Check

This check is to be completed in conjunction with the weekly check sheet on the indicated day in #4.7.1 or immediately following the return (within 24 hours) of any strike team or major incident in which the apparatus may have been subjected to extreme operating conditions.

All weekly or monthly check sheets are to be completed and kept on file, in their respective stations, for up to three (3) months, available for review.

**4.8.3 Air Filter:**

On larger district apparatus the air filter can be cleaned out with compressed air blowing from the inside out. Care should be taken not to dent or damage the sealing surface of the filter. Also check for tears, holes, or any separations of the filter elements that would allow dirt to pass through. Sealed filters can be inspected on the exterior and noted.

**4.8.4 Fluid Levels:**

Transmission fluid amount should be brought up to correct level with the proper lubricant. All automatic transmissions should be checked after the vehicle has been operated and the fluid warmed to operating temperature. Also check for any contaminants in fluid, any discoloration, or burnt smell.

**4.8.5 Power steering, transfer case, pump gearbox, and differentials:** check as above except fluids need not be at operating temperature.

**4.8.6 Equipment and Hose Inventory:**

All equipment and compartments are to be checked for inventory specific to equipment being checked. Hose inventory – per District standards for equipment being checked.

**4.8.7 Equipment operational checks:**

**Windshield Washer and Wiper System:**

Check condition of blades and arms. Check operation of wipers. Check washer operation and fill reservoir with proper solution.

**Tighten Loose Bolts and Screws:**

Top to bottom, front to back, tighten or replace missing or loose bolts, screws, or fastening devices.

Ladders:

Remove and check cleanliness, operation of all hooks (roof), hinge points (attic), lanyards or slide points (extension), lube as necessary, halyards on extension ladders to be replaced with minimum 3/8" diameter rope per N.F.P.A.

Air Brake Adjustment:

All District apparatus equipped with S-CAM type airbrakes will be checked and adjusted during every weekly apparatus check, upon return to station, after any use that the duty Captain feels may have been extreme operating conditions, or any time the operator deems necessary for safe operation. The maximum allowable travel after adjustment will be 1 to 1 and 1/2" measured from the front of the air brake chamber to the center of the clevis pin in the slack adjuster. "Auto adjusting" brakes must be checked and adjusted as above.

Brake Lining Wear:

Most apparatus will have inspection holes in backing plates to check brake lining. Any air brake equipped vehicle having 3/8" or less lining will immediately be reported to maintenance department on appropriate form.

Belt Tension and Wear:

All belts will be tightened to sufficiently drive the accessory they are attached to. Most applications will need approximately 3/8" to 1/2" deflection while pushing the belt. Any cracked, frayed, or missing belts will be replaced.

Exhaust System:

Entire system to be checked for leaks, loose clamps, severe dents, broken mountings or supports.

Lube Grease Zerks:

Clean off and lube all zerks on suspensions, drivelines, and special equipment (winches, ETS) with lithium base grease as needed on a monthly basis.

Suspension System:

Check for any loose, damaged, bent, excessive play, wear or missing bolts throughout entire suspension.

- 4.8.8 Any questions pertaining to the daily, weekly, or monthly check as well as any maintenance problem should be forwarded to District Maintenance Chief, Duty Chief and Districts' Mechanic.