

## 508 Use of Vehicles and Equipment

*Effective Date: 08/01/2022*

As part of your job, you may be expected to use certain types of equipment, or drive for work purposes. To reduce the risk of damaging equipment, or causing harm to yourself or others, you are expected to exercise care, perform required maintenance, and follow all operating instructions, safety standards, and guidelines, when using our property or equipment, or while driving for work purposes.

You must keep any work vehicle clean that you drive. Please notify a supervisor if any equipment, machines, tools, or vehicles need repair. Prompt reporting of damages, defects, and the need for repairs could prevent deterioration of equipment and possible injury to others. Supervisors can answer any questions about your responsibility for maintenance and care of equipment or vehicles used on the job.

Please use county issued credit cards for purchases of fuel from the appropriate County vendor. Purchase orders will be utilized for parts, and emergencies such as batteries, or tire repair necessary for operation of the vehicle.

You must obey all traffic laws and safety rules concerning the safe operation of motor vehicles while driving our vehicles or driving your own vehicles for work purposes. You must refrain from reading, sending e-mails, text messages, and/or instant messages, searching or scrolling for audio, and accessing the Internet from your cell phone or other wireless devices while operating a motor vehicle at any time the vehicle is in motion, part of traffic (e.g., while sitting at a stop sign or stop light), or is anything other than parked. In addition, if you must make or receive a call while driving for work purposes, pull off the roadway and park your vehicle for the duration of the call, or limit your conversation to the minimum time necessary and utilize a hands-free device.

You must participate in defensive driving course prior to operating a County vehicle, every 3 years thereafter, or any time you are in an accident. You must have a valid driver's license, which you should always have when you operate a vehicle. Do not place unauthorized bumper stickers or equipment in our vehicles.

We will not pay the costs of any parking tickets or traffic violations that you incur. In the event of overweight fines, you may be responsible for the first \$50. If you drive your own vehicle for work purposes, you must adequately insure the vehicle, and provide us with proof of insurance upon request. For insurance purposes, we may occasionally check your driving record, and if you fail to meet our standards, your driving privileges will be revoked.

You are expected to use our property, including our vehicles, for business use only. Occasional personal use while traveling for work purposes may be permitted. Non-employees such as guests or family members may be passengers if reasonable to transport them. However, our insurance may not cover their transportation. Do not transport hitchhikers.

In the event of an accident, you are required to immediately report the accident to your Department Head and, obtain a police report. An accident form must be completed and filed with

the Finance Director for insurance purposes.