

# Emergency Vehicle Operations



“Among the most dangerous things that a fire fighter will ever do is to climb aboard a fire apparatus (engine, pumper, truck, quint, brush truck... you get the idea) and respond in an “emergency” status with lights and sirens operating to a call for help. With the advent of so-called smart phones and their ever popular use, associated with loud car radios and near perfect sound insulation in most new passenger vehicles, distracted drivers are just one of the facets that make simply navigating to an emergency scene very dangerous. Other factors are weather, being tired, anger behind the wheel -perhaps an intense sense of urgency just to name a few.



The Shelby County Fire Department regards this to be a highly significant item in our daily lives here at this agency. When the first opportunity arose to host this brand-new course for our skilled responders, the department had the Tennessee State Fire

Academy schedule three full days of class and hands-on simulator instruction by some of the leading emergency responders in the mid-south. "This is a way to get our important people who operate these heavy and sometimes complicated fire equipment some instruction and some refreshers on emergency maneuvering and handling during a wide array of scenarios" Chief Benson said. "With this new technology, we don't have to put someone into a situation where equipment might be damaged or students may be in danger. "The simulators are very real and present almost any situation that one can imagine so when our suppression personnel are finished, they are even more prepared to safely negotiate traffic and conditions while responding to calls all over Shelby County. "The State of Tennessee has a wonderful program here that works", said Benson.

More than twenty Shelby County Fire Department fire fighters and responders took part in the classes which were led by four state instructors."

Emergency

