

SOP 3.02 – Lifesaving Motor Vehicles

Section 3 – Lifesaving Vehicles

Page 1 of 3

Effective Date – 1 September 2018

Review Date – 1 September 2020

Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To provide a minimum standard by which lifesaving vehicles shall be managed. Lifesaving vehicles are defined as motor vehicles that are used for lifesaving operations (patrolling/emergency response). This policy excludes ATV (All Terrain Vehicles) where a separate policy applies.

Scope

Lifesavers/Lifeguards required to drive these vehicles as part of their patrolling duties.

Procedures

Lifesavers/Lifeguards required to drive as part of their patrolling duties will only be permitted to do so if they hold the following driver qualifications.

- Driver's license (Provisional or Open) suitable for that vehicle.
- Appropriate or additional lifesaving qualifications for the patrol/response task.
- Vehicle induction (specific to that vehicle).

Lifesaving Vehicles must abide at all times with speed limits and all relevant laws and regulations relating to vehicles (including registrations, speed, seat-belts, red- lights, parking). Lifesaving vehicles are not exempt from any fines and infringements, including during emergencies.

Vehicles operating on-beach shall minimise speed and shall operate with headlights and hazard lights on at all times.

The vehicle should not exceed 20km/h under normal operating conditions. The speed limit for heavily populated areas and between the red and yellow flags is 5km/h.

Equipment

All vehicles assigned to patrol/response duties are recommended to carry the following lifesaving equipment during operational times:

- Life Saving Branding
- Oxygen Resuscitation Equipment + AED + First Aid Kit
- Rescue Board
- Rescue Tube + Fins
- Approved LSV Radio
- Spinal Board / Stretcher
- Torch

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Equipment that must be fitted

- Reverse Beepers
- Amber Flashing Lights – visible 360 degrees around vehicle

Any modifications including roll bars carry racks and storage containers must adhere to manufacturer's guidelines and be carried out in consultation with the manufacturer or dealer and LSV. In order to confirm this, contact Lifesaving Operations.

Vehicle Branding

Branding for all Lifesaving vehicles should comply with the SLSA Equipment and Uniform Branding Guidelines. These guidelines can be obtained from the SLSA Portal, Library and then [SLSA Members Portal](#)

Permanently branded lifesaving vehicles shall only be operated by approved personnel for approved duties.

When the vehicle is being disposed of, all surf lifesaving branding and equipment must be removed (refer [SOP 7.5 – Disposal of Lifesaving Equipment](#)).

Flashing Lights

Use of flashing lights shall be restricted to dedicated and approved lifesaving vehicles (not private vehicles).

The use of flashing lights should be restricted to on-beach patrolling/emergencies and shall not be used on public roads. Lifesaving vehicles can legally only use amber flashing lights. A siren must not be fitted to the vehicle by law and installation even without use is illegal.

Use of flashing lights does not exempt lifesaving services from any laws, regulations and by-laws (including speed/parking).

General Tips

The following information gives general advice on the safe use of 4WD Vehicles during normal Lifesaving service operations.

- Wide shelving beaches indicate firm packed sand and good driving conditions
- Steep short beaches indicate soft sand and hard going driving conditions.
- Avoid excessive use of engine power and wheel spinning

Stopping and Turning

- When stopping on the beach always stop above the high water mark with the vehicle facing downhill
- Never fight the steering wheel when in loose sand or when in someone else's tracks always provide gentle guidance and let the vehicle find its own way
- Always try to make the largest or sharpest turn on the downhill slope

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Driving in Salt Water

- At times it may be necessary to drive through salt water however this should be kept to a minimum.
- Club's should thoroughly rinse a 4WD which has been driven in salt water immediately after use, including thorough rinsing under the vehicle.

Bogged

Step 1

- Check that you have correctly engaged 4WD
- Check the vehicle tyre pressure is appropriate for the sand conditions and adjust if necessary. Take note to reinflate tyres where required after beach driving.
- Rock the vehicle forwards and backwards by alternating between forward and reverse gear at an idle and low range
- Don't over rev the engine and don't allow wheel spin

Step 2 (If Step 1 Fails)

- Dig away front and back of the wheel and anywhere it is caught under the body
- Drive the vehicle out being careful not to over rev and spin the wheels, the vehicle should come free on the first attempt

Overall

- Remember your vehicle is high profile and always be conservative and considerate when driving on the beach
- Always hose down your vehicle at the end of the day to ensure that all salt and sand deposits are washed away and the vehicle is ready for use

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