

SOP 3.02 – Lifesaving Motor Vehicles

Section 3 – Lifesaving Vehicles

Page 1 of 4

Effective Date – 10 December 2020

Review Date – 10 December 2022

Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To describe the procedure to be followed by applicable agency personnel involved in the operation of lifesaving vehicles.

Scope

This standard operating procedure (SOP) applies to all Life Saving Victoria (LSV) personnel (i.e., paid staff, officers and volunteer members) where engaged in the operations of lifesaving vehicles.

Policy Statement

LSV requires all vehicle operators to adhere to the established policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to vehicle operations.

Responsibilities

Lifesaving volunteers, lifeguards, local operations officers, duty officers (among others).

Definitions

Name	Definition
LSV	Life Saving Victoria

Procedure

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, and
- 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 must minimise speed and must 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

It is recommended that all vehicles assigned to patrol/response duties carry the following lifesaving equipment during operational times:

- lifesaving branding,
- oxygen resuscitation equipment + AED + first aid kit,
- rescue board,
- rescue tube + fins,
- approved LSV radio,
- spinal board/stretcher, and
- torch.

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. To confirm this, contact Lifesaving Operations.

Vehicle Branding

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

Permanently branded lifesaving vehicles must 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 to SOP 7.5 – Disposal of Lifesaving Equipment).

Flashing Lights

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

The use of flashing lights must be restricted to on-beach patrolling/emergencies and must 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).

Safety

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.

Driving in Salt Water

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

Bogged

Step 1

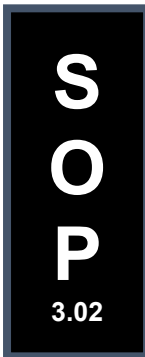
- Check that you have correctly engaged 4WD.
- Check the vehicle tyre pressure is appropriate for the sand conditions and adjust if necessary. Take note to reinflate tyres where required after beach driving.
- Rock the vehicle forwards and backwards by alternating between forward and reverse gear at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

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 all salt and sand deposits are washed away and the vehicle is ready for use.



Reference	
Related Documents	SLSA Policy 1.06 - Gear & Equipment
	LSV SOP 7.5 Disposal of Lifesaving Equipment

Review	
Date of Issue	10 December 2020
Date Effective	26 December 2020
Date to be Reviewed	1 July 2022
Date to Cease	10 December 2022

Authority
The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.

