

Purpose: This policy establishes procedures and restrictions for CTFD vehicles equipped with automatic tire chains.

Administration: All CTFD officers will have joint responsibility for administration of this policy within the scope of their job descriptions.

Definition:

Automatic Tire Chain: Permanently mounted to vehicle to offer the traction of a single set of conventional snow chains at the flip of a switch, without having to stop the vehicle.

Policy:

This policy shall be adhered to for any CTFD vehicle equipped with automatic tire chains. The maximum speed for driving any vehicle equipped with chains on is 30 mph. Automatic tire chains shall only be used for accumulations less than 4" of snow. For accumulations greater than 4", refer to Policy 8.11 Snow Chains.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to various different manufacturers' types of automatic tire chains on CTFD Vehicles refer to the manufacturers recommendations.

To engage the chains:

- Slowly drive the apparatus forward, no faster than 10 mph.
- Then activate the chains by flipping the tire chain toggle switch.
- Drive no faster than 30 mph.

To disengage the chains:

- Driving forward, slow to a speed lower than 10 mph.
- Deactivate the chains by flipping the tire chain toggle switch.

While driving with any tire chains on (automatic or cable chains), there are special considerations that the operator and crew should be aware of:

- If there is any noise or other condition that indicates the possibility a loose chain or any other problem with the chains, the operator shall **STOP** the apparatus as soon as possible in a safe area.
- If a loose or broken chain is noticed, it shall either be repaired or removed before continuing on. If repair or removal is not possible, chains shall be disengaged and the apparatus operator shall determine whether response can be continued safely at a reduced speed without chains.
- When stopping to check the chains, the officer or senior firefighter in charge shall notify the duty officer or officer in charge that the vehicle is stopping to check the chains. If the apparatus is to continue without chains or abort response, the officer or operator shall notify the duty officer or officer in charge of the altered response status of the unit.
- Under no circumstances shall you continue driving if you think that you may have a problem with tire chains. This could cause unnecessary damage to the apparatus and affect the safe operation of that vehicle.

References:

Policy 8.11 Snow Chains