

**Purpose:** This policy establishes procedures and restrictions for tire chains for CTFD vehicles.

**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.

**Tire Chain:** Devices which are affixed to the tires of vehicles to provide superior traction when driving through snow or ice.

**Policy:**

This policy shall be adhered to for any CTFD vehicle equipped with tire chains. The maximum speed for driving any vehicle equipped with chains on is 30 mph. Tire chains shall only be used for accumulations more than 4" of snow or significant accumulations of ice. For accumulations less than 4", refer to Policy 8.10 Automatic Tire Chains. The duty officer or OIC will make the decision when to mount or remove the tire chains on CTFD vehicles.

**Procedure:**

- Lay chains out flat, removing all tangles.
- Move vehicle, place chain mounting blocks behind inner tires, back vehicle onto blocks.
- Lay chain over tire, cross chain hooks up and fastener on outside of tire. Damage may result if hooks face against tire.
- Move tire until fasteners are axle high. Cams face tire tread (away from the wheel) before tightening. Hook inside fastener first. Remove slack and hook outside fastener. Make chain as tight as possible by hand without the use of tools
- Insert cam in slot, turn the cam clockwise until it stops. Cam will face toward the wheel when turned to lock position.
- Install tensioners.
- Wire tie excess chain links to avoid damage to vehicle.

**NOTE:** To insure maximum life and performance, tire chains must be installed as tight as possible.

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 it is necessary to remove chains from one side of the vehicle, chains on the opposite side must also be removed. 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.
- Avoid driving on dry roads for an extended period of time.
- Tire chains must be inspected after returning to check the tightness. Chains that come loose should be refastened for removed before they wrap the drive axle.

**References:**

Policy 8.10 Automatic Tire Chains

**Vehicles**

Cumru Township Fire Department  
Policy 8.11

**Tire Chains**

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