

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 05		DEPARTMENT FIRE-RESCUE
SUBJECT OFF-ROAD DRIVER TRAINING	SECTION 14	PAGE 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE August 29, 2025

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on where off-road driver training is approved.

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel, excluding Lifeguard personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The Fire Chief authorizes this policy.

III. POLICY

A. Off-Road Driver Training Locations

1. Operating a vehicle in unapproved areas is considered “unapproved use of a city vehicle” and any fines or citations will be the responsibility of the driver/operator.
2. Approved off-road training sites are located on Tablet Command (TC)
 - i. “Off-Road Driver Training” is a map layer that can be accessed on any Department iPad or iPhone.
 - ii. This layer will show all approved roads/trails in City of San Diego open space.
 - iii. Approved roads/trails are identified on the map by a firefighter helmet icon. Each icon will display a linked PDF of available open space trails.
 - iv. If crews are aware of any roads that do not appear in the layer, please submit them to sdfdoffroadDT@saniego.gov.

B. Training on Military Facilities

1. Military facilities are an additional layer found on TC.
 - i. The layer displays all military property highlighted in pink.
2. Any training on military property must be preapproved through the chain of command.
3. Access to Marine Corp Air Station Miramar (MCAS)
 - i. Training is coordinated through Battalion 7.
 - a) Battalion 7 will contact the Miramar Fire Duty Chief at least 2 shifts in advance.
 - b) Once permission is granted, crews will confirm the access gate and utilize Tablet Command maps to ensure the apparatus remains within the appropriate area.
 - ii. Crews training on MCAS Miramar will only be permitted in “Training Area 4”.
 - a) This is in the north-eastern area of the base.
 - b) The training area can be accessed via Sycamore Test Road or Camp Elliot Road.
 - iii. MCAS Miramar Procedure
 - a) Contact your Battalion Chief (BC)
 - b) Your BC will contact B7
 - c) B7 contacts Miramar Fire for approval

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d) B7 will add the scheduled training to the appropriate calendar

C. Environmental Considerations

1. Unimproved roads, which are typically made of dirt, gravel, or other natural materials, become wet and saturated after rainfall. These roads can remain unstable and hazardous for an extended period, often several days after a rain event.
 - i. Wet and saturated conditions significantly increase the likelihood of vehicles getting stuck.
 - a) During periods of wet weather or when roads are not fully dry, drivers and crews must refrain from training on these roads until they are sufficiently dry and stable to support the vehicles.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of all personnel involved in off-road driver training to ensure that proper assessments of the road conditions are conducted before initiating any training exercises.
 - a) Any concerns regarding road conditions should be addressed, and alternative training locations or times should be considered when necessary.
2. Please refer to the Brush Apparatus Task Book for off-road safety and driver operator procedures.
 - i. The Brush Apparatus Task Book is located in the Vector Solutions File Center>Training Division>Driver Training and Apparatus Information>Task Books>FD-846 Brush Apparatus