I. Purpose

This Policy establishes the pilot program for Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator training in accordance with §29-3-5d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the State Fire Commission to establish and administrate a pilot project program which implements changes to standards imposed on volunteer firefighting that address problems facing volunteer fire departments in the state, including issues related to training, recruitment and retention.

II. Procedure

1. The State Fire Commission shall set the rules and conditions for participating volunteer fire departments by policies adopted and ratified by the commission and all training shall be based upon professional standards adopted by the State of West Virginia and the West Virginia State Fire Commission.

2. The State Fire Commission may limit the number of participating volunteer fire departments in the pilot project program.

3. In order for a volunteer fire department to be eligible for participation in the Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Training Pilot Program, they must obtain the required “Module Training Enrollment- Department Form”, complete the form and apply to the WV State Fire Marshal’s Office for approval. This application includes an “Acknowledgement of Risks and Release of Responsibility” and that the department is willing to allow potential firefighter candidates to participate in the pilot program as agreed upon by the Fire Chief’s signature.

4. In order for an individual to be eligible for participation in Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pilot Program, they must obtain the required “Module Training Enrollment- Individual Form”, complete the form and apply to the WV State Fire Marshal’s Office for approval. This application includes an “Acknowledgement of Risks and Release of Responsibility” and that they understand the perimeters of the pilot program as agreed upon with the participating volunteer fire department Fire Chief or his/her designee’s signature.

5. Easily identifiable helmet markers will be worn as established by the WV State Fire Commission during Module participation and after full completion of the Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator training. Upon completion of Module 1; a Module 1 FF sticker with orange in the number will be provided and then upon completion of the
remainder of the Module Fire Apparatus Driver/Operation program, a Final Sticker which will have a number three in “orange” and an orange boarder around it.

6. Such identifiable markers will be provided by the WV State Fire Marshal Office after completion of Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator.

   a. Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator

Module 1
   i. Wear structural firefighting gear
   ii. Ride on a fire apparatus
   iii. Answer station phone
   iv. Talk on a two-way radio
   v. Deploy traffic and scene control devices
   vi. Make hydrant and FDC connections
   vii. Stretch hose lines (Exterior fire ground)
   viii. Deploy Master streams
   ix. Assist set up for drafting operations
   x. Clean and inspect hose
   xi. Perform first aid and CPR
   xii. Operate within the parameters of an Incident Command System
   xiii. Operate at the Awareness level at a Haz Mat incident – Identify, Isolate and Notify.

HazMat Component
   i. Using the DOT’s Emergency Response Guidebook

Module 2
   i. Daily Inspection Exercise
   ii. Operate a Fire Apparatus on a Public Roadway
   iii. Back Vehicle into Restricted Spaces (Alley Dock)
   iv. Back Vehicle into Restricted Spaces (Station Parking)
   v. Maneuver a Vehicle Around Obstructions
   vi. 180 Degree Turn in a Confined Space
   vii. Restricted Horizontal and vertical Spaces
   viii. Defensive Driving Techniques

Module 3
   i. Friction Loss
   ii. Positioning For Hydrant Operations
   iii. Positioning For Drafting Operations
   iv. Operate from Static Water Source
   v. Operate from Pressurized Water Source
   vi. Transition from the Apparatus Water Tank to an External Water Supply
   vii. Operate in a Constant Pressure Relay
   viii. Supply a Fire Department Connection

Optional Module
   i. Daily Inspection-Wildland Fire Apparatus
   ii. Operate a Wildland Apparatus Off a Public Roadway
   iii. Daily Inspection-Mobile Water Supply Apparatus
iv. Positioning at a Water Shuttle Fill Site
v. Position a Mobile Water Supply Apparatus At a Water Shuttle Dump Site.
vi. Establish a Water Dump Site

7. An individual may only participate and carry out duties that he/she has been fully trained in based on the completion of Modular - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator and understand that if a participant exceeds those duties knowingly, the Volunteer Department may be subject to discharge from the program indefinitely.

8. The WV State Fire Commission nor it’s training providers provide insurance coverage for Volunteer Fire Departments or participants.


Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator are completed the candidate will be eligible to receive identification decals for their helmet. The process is as follows:

Once a candidate has completed all modules and passed the test, the instructor will submit a roster to the state fire marshal’s office with the following information.

1. Name of Candidate.
2. Age
3. Name of department the candidate is affiliated with.
4. Date of Module Completion.
5. Last 4 of Social Security Number.

Once received by the fire marshal’s office the roster will be processed and an identification decal will be issued to the candidate. The decal will be sent by certified mail to the candidates affiliated department and it will be the responsible of the candidate’s fire chief to issue and place the decal on the helmet of said candidate.

A roster of all module training completed and passed will kept by the state fire marshal’s office.

Whenever the module firefighter candidate is participating in fire department activities the decal will be visible on his/her helmet.

If at any time a module firefighter candidate leaves his/her current department the decal will be NULL and VOID and the fire chief of that department will be responsible for returning that sticker to the state fire marshal’s office. It will be the responsibility of the fire chief of their new department to obtain a new decal for their helmet. The new department must be enrolled in the Fire Commission Module Firefighting Training Pilot Program through filling out a department enrollment form and then they will complete a replacement decal application with the following information:

1. Name of Candidate.
2. Name of previous department the candidate was affiliated with.
3. Age
4. Name of department the candidate is affiliated with now.
5. Date of Module Completion.

10. There will be a mechanism in place for a member transferring depts to take their same sticker as long as the helmet is taken with them to their new volunteer fire department.