

A close-up photograph of a white computer keyboard. The focus is on a single key that features a large, stylized blue logo. The logo consists of two overlapping heart shapes, each with a white jagged line running through its center, resembling a medical pulse or a stylized 'M'. Below the logo, the text "Medic Defensive Driving (MDD) Program" is printed in a black, sans-serif font, following the curve of the key. In the background, other keys are visible, including one with a double quote and another with a backslash and forward slash. The overall lighting is bright and even.

# Medic Defensive Driving (MDD) Program



**MEDIC**

Medical Excellence. Compassionate Care.



# PURPOSE

The **Medic Defensive Driving (MDD)** program is designed to reduce risk and maintain safety through avoidance of dangerous situations while driving Agency vehicles.

The purpose of the program is to apply a uniform skill set and approach so that all employees have equal drive time and practice with:

- Maneuvering in and out of tight spaces
- Driving through heavily-traveled streets and highways
- Practicing merging into and out of traffic
- Visiting frequently assigned posts and hospital ambulance bay entrances and exits
- Applying the Agency's universal hand signals for backing
- Utilizing navigational skills



# HOW IT WORKS

Agency employees will be taught the “5 Targets” during:

- New hire orientation
- Annual refresher in Corporate Compliance
- During any remedial training

An evaluation will be completed to assess each target during drive time (feedback provided to FTO/Supervisor).





# THE 5 TARGETS OF THE PROGRAM

## **Target 1: Look Ahead**

Use a 15 second eye lead time in city traffic to provide advanced warning signs of hazards

Use a 30 second eye lead time on interstates for an additional margin of safety

## **Target 2: Get the Broad View**

Check mirrors every 5 to 8 seconds to consistently update relevant information

Apply a minimum 6 second following distance to maintain visibility to make quick decisions

## **Target 3: Keep Scanning**

Keep your eyes moving every 2 seconds to keep your peripheral vision intact

Clear intersections before making a turn (look left, right, left OR right, left, right)

## **Target 4: Create a Safe Space**

Build a space cushion around the front and sides of your vehicle

Anticipate the actions of others

## **Target 5: Be Seen and Stand Out**

Use your warning devices and directional signals

Seek eye contact with drivers at intersections prior to moving forward



# USE OF THE 5 MDD TARGETS PROVIDE:

Space

for the vehicle

Visibility

for the driver

Time

to make decisions



# VEHICLE OPERATIONS

✱ Agency employees will continue to learn the following vehicle operations:

- Location of battery switch and purpose
- Location of master switch and purpose
- Mirror functions
- Brief overview of mobile mapping
- Fueling and cleaning vehicle at the end of shift





# SPACE CUSHION / TIGHT SPACES

✱ We will practice driving through numerous tight spaces in order to understand the importance of space cushion.

✱ Two examples of tight spaces to be used:

- 4th Street leaving Novant Main.
- “Drop Off” lane at post office on McDowell.





# FREQUENT POSTS

✚ Employees will tour high demand posts and Fire Departments where we have had multiple preventable accidents (i.e., hitting CFD keypads, gates and/or CFD employee cars).

## ■ Posts

- Post 57
- Post 61
- Post 64
- Pineville FD 71
- CFD Station 12
- CFD Station 14
- CFD Station 15
- CFD Station 16
- CFD Station 21
- CFD Station 23
- CFD Station 25
- CFD Station 26
- CFD Station 42





# FREQUENT HOSPITALS

✱ We will tour the following hospitals where everyone will learn the location of ambulance bay entrances and exits, where and how to park the ambulance, the registration process and printer locations.

- Atrium Health CMC Main
- Novant Presbyterian Main
- Atrium Health CMC Mercy
- Atrium Health CMC University
- Atrium Health CMC Pineville





# PROPER BACKING HAND SIGNALS

- ✱ **Avoid Backing Collisions:** Avoid backing whenever possible, leave a space cushion around your vehicle when pulling up to a scene, and **ALWAYS** use a spotter per Agency policy.





# PROPER BACKING HAND SIGNALS

*Move Right*



*Move Left*



*Distance from Object*



*Slow Down*





# SUMMARY



The program was developed to provide an overall improved defensive driving strategy for all employees to practice and deploy. The methodology was aimed at providing training for the type of vehicle that Agency employees operate.

## Follow the 5 Targets:

**Target 1: Look Ahead**

**Target 2: Get the Broad View**

**Target 3: Keep Scanning**

**Target 4: Create a Safe Space**

**Target 5: Be Seen and Stand Out**

## The 5 Targets Provide:

**Space**

for the vehicle

**Visibility**

for the driver

**Time**

to make decisions



# QUESTIONS?

