
	<b>COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE</b> <b>Department of Fire Rescue</b> <b>STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE</b>	
	<b>Subject:</b>	Advanced Life Support
	<b>Reference Number:</b>	SOG-OPS-001
	<b>Effective Date:</b>	1 January 2004
	<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	3 February 2004
<b>Signature of Approval:</b>	 <b>J. Dan Eggleston, Chief</b>	

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this guideline is to establish guidelines for the utilization of the volunteer basic life support (BLS) emergency response vehicles to provide advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical assistance.

**Guideline:**

The Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue has been granted an exemption by the Virginia Office of EMS for the use of BLS licensed vehicles for the transportation of county ALS providers and equipment. The exemption allows Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue Personnel to utilize volunteer fire company vehicles for responses providing ALS and BLS assistance as needed.

ALS equipment will be kept on the vehicle whenever the vehicle is at the station and available for use. The equipment may remain on the vehicle when an Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue ALS provider is in the station or available for response. When the equipment is in the vehicle, the compartment doors shall remain locked at all times.

If no permanent lock cabinets are available on the apparatus, if the weather is such that it may cause equipment problems (i.e. too hot or too cold), if the vehicle will be unavailable for a long period of time, or if the vehicle is being utilized for transportation outside the area (i.e. regional fire school, etc.), the ALS equipment (drug box, intubation kit) will be removed and stored in a locked cabinet.

ALS providers will be assigned a set of keys for the drug box lock and the ALS cabinet by the Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue. ALS providers and officers shall note in the logbook anytime the drug box is removed or put back on the unit. The Assistant Chief of Operations and the stations officer shall be notified anytime there is a concern with the drug box.