

Travis County Emergency Services District No. 9
Westlake Fire Department

Standard Operating Procedure

Subject: Load Limited Bridges

Effective Date: June 15, 1997

Authorized By: Chief Paul Barker Date: May 11, 2000

I. Purpose

To establish a policy dealing with the situation of low-load-limit bridges, ramps, and other supporting structures.

II. Policy

- A. No apparatus will attempt to cross a bridge, ramp, or other type of supporting structure which has a posted or suspected load limit less than the Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of the apparatus.
- B. Members shall be familiar with the GVW of the apparatus to which they are assigned.

III. Procedure

- A. All companies shall periodically tour their response territory checking for bridges, ramps, or other types of supporting structures. They should note the posted load limits of such structures and post these in the daily log for the other shifts to review. If the load limit is not posted, an effort should be made to find out what it is.
- B. If the GVW of the apparatus exceeds the posted or suspected load limit of the bridge, ramp, or other type of supporting structure, the unit should not attempt to cross that area. Another route should be taken if possible. If no other route is available, an appropriate plan of action should be formulated to allow for the best alternative type of response to the affected area. Keep in mind that there are light-duty vehicles available to respond to emergencies (B-1, R-1, Squad, etc.)