

# Memorandum

To: Unit Chiefs  
Region Chiefs  
Assistant Region Chiefs

Date: December 6, 2016

Telephone: (916) 653-9424

Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

From:   
DAVE TETER  
Deputy Director, Chief of Fire Protection  
**California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**

Subject: Class C Driver License with Firefighter Endorsement

In April 2015, CAL FIRE participated in a settlement conference at the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) to address a disagreement between Local 2881 and CAL FIRE relating to driver license requirements for firefighters. As part of that settlement, any new employees or current employees required to renew their driver license will be permitted to obtain either a Commercial Class A or B license, or a Class C license with the Firefighter endorsement. The settlement agreement remains in effect until such time as a meet and confer is held and any changes are agreed to by both parties.

Section 12804.11(a)(1) and (2) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) establishes the requirements for a driver, including a tiller operator, to operate firefighting equipment. In order to qualify for a Class C driver license with Firefighter endorsement, CVC Section 12804.11(b)(1)(A) requires the driver to provide the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) with, "...proof of current employment as a firefighter or registration as a volunteer firefighter with a fire department and evidence of fire equipment operation training by providing a letter or other indication from the chief of the fire department or his or her designee."

Understanding that the only way for a current CAL FIRE employee, or registered volunteer firefighter participating with an agency whom CAL FIRE administers under a Cooperative Fire Agreement (i.e. Schedule A contract), can qualify for the Class C driver license with Firefighter endorsement is to provide the DMV with the documentation noted in CVC Section 12804.11(b)(1)(A) from CAL FIRE's chief or his/her designees. Until such time as any changes come about from any meet and confer on this matter, Unit Chiefs are delegated the authority from the Director to provide a signed letter (a template is attached for your convenience) on Department letterhead for purposes of meeting the requirements set forth by the DMV pursuant to CVC 12804.11(b)(1)(A) provided all of the following criteria are met:

1. The potential driver must be a current CAL FIRE employee or a current registered volunteer/resident/pay-call firefighter within an organized program administered by CAL FIRE at the time the letter is provided, and

Class C Driver License w/Firefighter Endorsement Memo  
December 6, 2016  
Page Two

2. The required "evidence of fire equipment operation training" has been verified and hard copies of the training document(s) are on file prior to the signed letter being provided.

For the purpose of "evidence of fire equipment operation training," it is the responsibility of the employee or registered volunteer firefighter to provide sufficient documentation for the Unit Chief's review in order to determine that the training requirement has been satisfied.

cc: Ken Pimlott, Director  
Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director  
Tony Favro, Deputy Director, Management Services  
Phyllis Banducci, Assistant Deputy Director, Cooperative Fire, Training and Safety  
Joe Tyler, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire Protection Operations