

Firefighter Drivers License Program

Firefighters must maintain proper licensure for driving of firefighting equipment and rescue ambulances. This requires that firefighters maintain either a Class C with a firefighter endorsement (DL 546), or an unrestricted Class A or B (DL 51).

County of LA firefighters are given a choice as to which license they wish to maintain, and whether to have any required medical examination (DL 51) with a County-contracted physician vs. their own health care provider.

If a firefighter chooses to have the DMV examination done by a County-contracted physician, the firefighter will be required to undergo the same evaluation process as County employees from other departments. This means that the examination will require completion of a supplemental medical history form, color vision testing, and meeting the County's medical guidelines for driving. For some conditions, these may be more strict than the Federal regulations.

A DMV exam is a fitness-for-duty exam, not a wellness exam. As such, it is not done to benefit the firefighter, but rather to protect the safety of the public. A firefighter needs to carefully consider whether they would rather have their personal physician determine their fitness-for-duty vs. the C.E.O. Furthermore, this decision must be made before the exam begins, not during or afterwards when concerns are raised by the County-contracted physician. Once a County work-fitness exam is initiated, it cannot be canceled because the firefighter is unhappy with the results.