

CARE Ambulance Service Steep Downhill Driving Guide and sign-off Form

Each employee will demonstrate his/her ability to properly negotiate downhill driving utilizing low gears and the Telma Retarder.

Care Ambulance Service covers a very diverse area including off road trails, steep hills, deserts, ski resorts, creeks lakes and rivers. Each employee must be comfortable driving a large vehicle in many unforgiving situations. Care Ambulance has gone to great lengths to provide all the best equipment for providing employees and patients with safe transport. One of these pieces of equipment is called a Telma Retarder. The Telma Retarder works as a frictionless magnetic brake automatically applying resistance to the rear wheels by slowing the driveline through magnetic eddy currents all initiated by pressing the brake pedal or moving a 4 position stick located on the middle console. Using the Telma in conjunction with low gear descending a steep grade will eliminate brake fade if used properly.

When approaching a steep grade, bring the ambulance to a complete stop. Shift into low gear and proceed slowly. By using low gear and only the 4 position Telma stick you can keep the ambulance at a safe speed without touching the brake pedal thereby keeping the brakes cool and ready for any emergency you may encounter.

Always keep the ambulance at a safe slow speed in low gear when descending a steep grade...it is much easier to stop an ambulance at slow speeds and when the brakes are fresh. Becoming familiar with how the unit works and feels is paramount in providing safe effective transport to our patients. Getting in the habit of using the 4 position stick makes it almost second nature when descending steep grades.

You will be required to descend hwy 155 from Shirley Meadow down to Wofford Heights Blvd using low gear and **only** the 4 position Telma Stick.