

Springfield Fire *Rescue* Division

Policy Manual

Section: Miscellaneous
Number: 10.3
Title: SFRD Rider/Observer Policy
Originated: June 1, 2000
Modified: May 13, 2014

Purpose: To promote good will in the community and insight to careers in the Fire/EMS service, for students and interested members of the community.

10.3.1 Applicability

10.3.1.1 This applies to any and all SFRD personnel and civilian riders/observers.

10.3.2 Guidelines

10.3.2.1 The hours of observance are 0800-2200 hours.

10.3.2.2 Observer vests have been issued to each front line and reserve apparatus. Riders/observers, (**EMS/Nursing personnel are exempted**) will wear the vest, to and from, as well as during an incident.

10.3.2.2.1 All observers shall wear Hi-Visibility Public Safety Vest in any situation while working in a public access roadway where traffic is flowing as required by Policy Manual #3.6.6.

10.3.2.3 Riders/observers or Preceptor Program participants WILL NOT ride in an exposed (open) cab type apparatus.

10.3.2.4 Riders/observers shall wear a seat belt at all times whenever riding on apparatus.

10.3.2.5 All riders/observers must have a current signed and notarized waiver form on file in the Chief's office prior to the scheduled day.

10.3.2.6 Waiver forms remain current for the application period, as stated on the form.

10.3.2.7 Minors (under 18) must at least be in high school (ninth grade).

10.3.2.8 Relatives of SFRD personnel will not ride on the same apparatus together.

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- 10.3.2.9** No more than one (1) rider/observer at any one time, per fire station.
- 10.3.2.10** Riders/observers may wear either their Fire/EMS uniform from another public safety department or will wear plain casual or professional attire including footwear. No bluejeans, loud, suggestive or descriptive imprinted shirts, backward turned ballcaps or excessive jewelry on the hands or head. Any rider/observer not adhering to the dress code will not be permitted to ride on apparatus. **Nametags as issued by your instructional organization are required to be worn.**
- 10.3.2.11** The rider/observer will at all times maintain a professional appearance and demeanor.
- 10.3.2.12** The rider/observer will at all times obey the instructions of the officer or firefighter in charge.
- 10.3.2.13** The rider/observer upon arriving at the fire station, will immediately report to the company officer or firefighter in charge with proper identification for assignment.
- 10.3.2.14** Should any cancellations need to be made, call the Springfield Fire *Rescue* Division at (937) 324-7605 during business hours preferably with 24-hour notice. If emergency cancellation is required after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends, you may call the Shift Commanders Office at (937) 324-7609 and leave a message.
- 10.3.2.15** The rider/observer wishing to eat meals with the Fire Company must request it when reporting in. Usual meal price is \$5.00/meal per person.
- 10.3.3** Fire Station Activities
- 10.3.3.1** A rider/observer may do any task that is safe and within the scope of their training and ability. The individuals may be used to augment but not replace SFRD personnel.
- 10.3.4** Fire/Medical Incident Activities
- 10.3.4.1** A rider/observer will at no time enter any hazardous area or atmosphere.
- 10.3.4.2** At a fire incident, will remain with the apparatus, Box 27 or the Incident commander.
- 10.3.4.3** At a medical incident, may accompany the SFRD personnel or remain

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with the apparatus.

- 10.3.4.4** Any incident reports that the rider/observer writes for class requirements must not include the actual names and or personal identification of the patients involved. The confidential nature of the information the rider/observer will be exposed to must be respected. Any violations of breach of confidentiality is cause for exclusion from any further participation in the field experience. A report of any such breach will be forwarded to the instructional organization program director.
- 10.3.4.5** The officer or firefighter in charge will be responsible for the safety of the rider/observer and will ensure that these guidelines and the seat belt policy are followed.
- 10.3.5** Scheduling
- 10.3.5.1** Preceptor Program participants will be scheduled with companies responsible for primary EMS or Fire response. Preceptor Program riders may choose to rotate between medic units at an assigned station, in an effort to maximize EMS Incident exposure. During Fire Incident response by the assigned company, students may accompany units on fire apparatus with an enclosed cab, or remain at the station.
- 10.3.6** Exceptions
- 10.3.6.1** Exceptions to the above may be made at the Fire Chief's discretion.

Written by: J. Mike Beers, Fire Chief

Authorized by: C. Nicholas Heimlich, Fire Chief

Modified by: Lt. John Henz