

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE
POLICIES, PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

SUBJECT: Ride-Along Program

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APPROVED BY:


Board Chair

REVIEWED: 09-05-2017 BY: BOARD

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Board of Commissioners to allow citizens and dignitaries to observe East County Fire & Rescue in action in order to evaluate or determine career interest.

The following are guidelines to follow regarding ride-along requests:

1. The rider must be
 - At least 18 years of age and in a formal school program that requires the experience,
 - With another fire agency,
 - Or, be sponsored by a member of East County Fire & Rescue.
2. Observation may be conducted only between the hours of 0800 and 1700, Monday through Saturday.
3. Individuals will not be allowed more than two ride-alongs. Exceptions may be made at the Chief's discretion for special projects (e.g. Senior projects).
4. The observer will sign a release. (form 10.7.14a-see tab A). These are to be obtained in the office during normal business hours and must be filled out in advance of the observation.
5. Attire will be appropriate and professional, neat and clean slacks, and a light colored shirt with appropriate footwear. (Baggy clothing, sandals or other light footwear are not appropriate, along with t-shirts that have inappropriate messages.)
6. Observers riding through a meal period must provide their own brown bagged meal(s).
7. Observers must be afforded all necessary safety precautions while riding and while in the station. Every effort will be made to provide the observer the opportunity for a flavor of the job, while still respecting victim privacy and/or scene safety.

8. Dormitories are strictly off limits for observers.
9. If, in the officer's judgment, the rider does not comply with any of these provisions or is causing undue disruption, the observation will be terminated and the Chief will be immediately notified. A report stating the reasons for such termination will be forwarded through channels to the Fire Chief expediently, but no later than the end of the shift.
10. These guidelines may be deviated from on a case by case basis upon consideration by a chief officer.
11. Try to schedule with the Fire Chief at least seven days in advance.
12. Observer will wear a District-provided "OBSERVER" vest.