

PERSONS RIDING ON FIRE APPARATUS

201.02

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CHAPTER II OPERATIONS

SUBJECT 1 Responses

TOPIC 2 Persons Riding on Fire Apparatus

A. PURPOSE

1. The Ride-along Policy of the Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) is designed to promote mutual understanding between the community and the CFD. The Department wishes to lead in this endeavor by allowing for professional development with other public service providers; providing assistance in the fulfillment of various educational requirements; ensuring security for our stations, personnel and the public; and providing a means for the CFD to make more informational contact with the public.
2. To provide for the safety of citizens through verification of riders backgrounds.
3. To enhance safety by requiring all passengers on fire apparatus to be seated and belted at all times when the vehicle is in motion. Riding while standing or riding on back steps is specifically prohibited.
4. To enhance safety by requiring caution to be used when disembarking the apparatus and assuring clearance before apparatus movement.

B. POLICY

1. All Personnel that are not sworn uniformed members of the Cincinnati Fire Department must obtain the permission of the Fire Chief to ride fire apparatus, through the Operations Division. Only the Fire Chief may grant exceptions to any of the ride-along guidelines; such as Box 13 members, Members of Council and other City Employees.
2. All Personnel when riding apparatus will comply with the following provisions of the *NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*:
3. All Personnel will use extreme caution when disembarking the apparatus.

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C. RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURE

1. Ride-along candidates shall fill out an Application Form 22 to ride with CFD. A blank application is available on the “all CFD drive” in the “ride-along” folder. The application will include general and background information, along with the purpose of the ride-along. The completed application must be notarized with a raised notary seal and presented to a District Chief for review and approval by an Assistant Chief and the Fire Chief or his Designee prior to the ride -along. Along with the application, the applicant must also present a copy of a recent (less than 1 week old) criminal background check on a Police Department letterhead and police signature.
2. Once approved, the candidate shall report to the Operations Division to sign a release of liability waiver and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security/ Confidentiality Agreement. A copy of the completed application, waiver, and a digital picture of the individual will be placed on the “all CFD drive”, “ride-along” folder.
3. Riders approved by Fire Administration, shall coordinate with the Operations (OPS) Division to schedule the ride-along. OPS shall make every effort to accommodate a ride-along without compromising the safety and efficiency of CFD operations.
4. Fire Companies shall be limited to no more than one ride-along at a time.
5. Riders shall be limited to one ride-along per application unless otherwise approved by the Operations Division.
6. Times shall be limited to 1000 to 2200 unless otherwise approved by the Fire Chief.
7. Riders must be at least 18 years of age.
8. Riders shall show photo identification to the Company Officer when arriving at the scheduled ride-along. The Officer must also verify the individual’s application, waiver and picture on the “all CFD drive” in the “ride-along” folder prior to allowing them to board the apparatus.
9. Fire Officers shall review the ride-along policy with all riders upon their arrival at the Station.
10. Rider’s name and other information shall be entered into the Company Desk Diary.
11. Acceptable ride-along clothing shall be, clean pants/slacks, clean shirt/blouse, clean shoes/boots, and a clean jacket without non-service related patches.
12. Riders shall remain outside all hazard zones as directed by the Officer In-charge.
13. Riders may not discuss confidential information or incident information with bystanders or the media.
14. Company Officers have the authority to terminate a ride-along at any time, at the Officer’s discretion, for safety violations, inappropriate behavior or actions.
15. CFD shall terminate all ride-alongs when the national terrorist threat level reaches or exceeds ORANGE.

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D. ENSURING ALL PERSONS ARE SECURED

1. Whenever apparatus moves, it is the responsibility of the Company Officer or person in charge to ensure all members are seated and belted.
2. Each member will raise their hand after the seat belt has been fastened and will keep it raised until the apparatus moves forward for the Officer's inspection.
3. Prior to any apparatus movement, the Officer will make visual contact with every member riding on the apparatus to see that each member has their arm raised.
4. Apparatus drivers will not move apparatus until receiving the OK from the Officer.
5. The Officer will not give the driver permission to move the apparatus until all members have verified their seat belts have been fastened.
6. On emergency responses that require turn out gear, members will don all personal protective equipment minus the SCBA prior to sitting and belting.
7. On non-emergency responses and responses that do not require personal protective equipment, the personal protective equipment will be properly stowed on board prior to sitting and belting.
8. When the Company receives dispatch while in an "available on radio" status for emergency response that requires personal protective equipment, members SHALL wait until apparatus is completely stopped to don their personal protective equipment at the scene. The Officer may stop the apparatus at dispatch and have all members don their personal protective equipment. Apparatus will not move until after all members are seated and belted.
9. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE OFFICER ALLOW ANY MEMBER TO DON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE FIRE EQUIPMENT WHILE THE APPARATUS IS MOVING. Standing while riding shall be specifically prohibited. **All** persons riding on fire apparatus shall be seated in approved riding positions and shall be secured to the vehicle by seat belts at any time the vehicle is in motion.
10. RIDING ON TAILSTEPS, SIDESTEPS, RUNNING BOARDS, OR IN ANY OTHER EXPOSED POSITION SHALL BE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED.

E. DISEMBARKING THE APPARATUS

1. All personnel should use extreme when disembarking the apparatus, no attempt should be made to disembark until the vehicle is completely stopped.
2. Personnel getting off the apparatus should be aware of the condition of the ground where they intend to step. Many injuries are associated with twisted ankles and knees from stepping in a hole or on the curb when disembarking the apparatus.
3. Personnel should assure themselves and equipment is clear of the apparatus in case of movement. Only after this assurance, are personnel to close the apparatus door.
4. Drivers are not to move the apparatus until all doors are shut, assuring that personnel are clear of the apparatus.