



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Title:	Citizen Ride-A-Long Program		
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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the implementation of the Citizen Ride-Along Program for such purpose as to allow civilians an opportunity to view, understand and respect the daily duties of firefighters in the City of Rogers.

POLICY

In order for a citizen to participate in the Citizen Ride-Along Program, hereafter referred to as the CRP, they must meet the following minimum requirements and submit a Form 20 to the Fire Chief's Office for review and consideration.

1. Must be at least 16 years of age
2. Must have no felony record
3. Must be mature enough to handle serious situations

After completion of the Form 20 and submitting it to a Battalion Chief or Deputy Chief of Field Operations, the form shall be reviewed and the requested date shall be approved according to leave, etc. Chief and Company Officer's shall have the authority to revoke the CRP process at any time according to the particular situation and circumstances occurring on that day. CRP participants shall only be allowed on emergency incident scenes, outside of a vehicle, when specifically asked or requested by an officer. Civilians must be escorted and supervised at all times while on incident scenes.

Participation in the CRP shall not become habitual and should only occur when all parties involved are aware and comfortable with the situation. Participants shall NOT wear bunker gear or the insignia of the RFD at any time.

Some examples of what participants in the CRP can do are:

- Help firefighters with daily checkout, chores (ie: washing trucks), etc
- Observe firefighters while at emergency incidents that do not impair the safety of the civilian observer

- Orient themselves with the firefighters working for the day, the dispatch system, station layout and station life

EMS Student Ride-Along

As part of their training, persons involved in the delivery of emergency services are offered the opportunity to ride-along with the City of Rogers Fire Department. Only under direct supervision of the Paramedic on-duty, may students involved in EMS training practice their skills.

EMS students shall complete the following steps in order to ride-along with the RFD:

1. Obtain a Ride-Along Request form (Form 20) from the Rogers Fire Department. These forms are kept in the Battalion Chief's office at Central Fire Station, 301 North 1st Street. This request must be filled out and approved by a chief officer prior to the ride-along date. This form EXPIRES 30 days from the date the ride-along form was issued.
2. The student shall schedule a ride-along date and time with the Rogers Fire Department Battalion Chief by calling (479) 621-1111. In the event the apparatus cannot safely accommodate a ride-along, or other unforeseen circumstances arise, it may be necessary to reschedule the ride-along. Students unable to keep their assigned appointment may face revocation of the ride-along privilege.
3. Ride-along participants must have their forms on file at Central Fire Station prior to their ride-along date. Failure to do so may terminate the ride-along. Complete Form 20's shall be forwarded to Fire Administration for data purposes.
4. Ride-Along participants will be issued a reflective vest compliant with current DOT and ANSI regulations and any personal protective equipment required during their ride-along.
5. The ride-along participant shall turn in any equipment issued (including reflective vest) at the end of the ride-along period.

General Guidelines

- Persons riding along are under the complete control of the Captains, the lead Paramedic, or the lead EMT at all times. The on-duty Captain or Battalion Chief has the authority to terminate any ride-along session for misbehavior or failure to follow the agreed upon rules.
- The Ride-Along shall wear a reflective vest anytime they leave the station with the crews.
- The Ride-Along shall don proper PPE for the call they are on.

- The ride-along may not leave the cab at the scene of an incident without instructions from the Captain, the lead Paramedic or the lead EMT.
- The ride-along is not to converse with victims or members of the public unless directed to do so.
- Persons riding along shall not interfere with fire or EMS company activities at any time.
- Tape recorders, cameras or other recording devices shall not be permitted unless specifically approved by the fire chief.
- Ride-Alongs shall act professionally and be safe at all times during the ride-along period. If they have a problem of any kind, they should speak to the Captain or Lead Paramedic immediately.
- Ride-along participants are NOT allowed in the bedrooms and must remain in the common areas of the station.
- Ride-Alongs will not be left in the station alone. They will go with the apparatus or leave the station.
- Ride along participants are NOT allowed to use any department computers, networks, or other department equipment.
- Persons riding-along shall be physically able to enter and exit an enclosed cab fire engine or ambulance without assistance and in a manner that will not hinder Fire Department operations.
- All persons riding along shall be able to effectively communicate with all Fire Department members.
- No one under the age of 16 will be permitted to ride without explicit approval of the fire chief
- Must not have a felony record
- Must be mature enough to handle serious situations
- Non-EMS ride-alongs will ride on the Engine, Ladder or Staff vehicles and will not ride on Ambulances unless authorized by the fire chief.
- All ride-alongs shall be scheduled in advance on the station calendar.

Dress Code for All Ride-Along Participants

- Hair must be clean, well groomed, neatly trimmed and styled in a manner as to not interfere with vision or create a safety hazard. Hair that is such that it may interfere as described must be pulled back and secured in a ponytail. Hairstyles or coloring that would draw attention or appear as a substantial deviation from the community norm are not acceptable.
- Facial hair is permitted. Beards and mustaches must be neatly trimmed and cannot be of such length as to not create a safety hazard.

- Ride-Alongs are not to wear earrings, nose rings, or other facial jewelry while performing clinical time. Any jewelry that interferes in any way with job performance shall not be worn.
- Sweat pants, shorts, skirts or dresses may not be worn during your ride-along period. Pants must be clean and of durable material. Pants must be free of holes and must not be faded or baggy. Department uniforms are permitted as long as they are presentable and clean.
- Clothing with offensive writing or pictures shall NOT be permitted during the ride-along period. Failure to abide by this may cause termination of the ride-along. Shirts that display the Rogers Fire Department logo are not allowed. Shirts must be collared, clean, fit well and be free of holes.
- Open-toed shoes may not be worn. Shoes must be durable and suitable for station and emergency activities.
- Baseball caps are acceptable. The Rogers Fire Department logo cannot be displayed on the hats or any slogan which can be interpreted as offensive. Stocking caps can be worn if the weather conditions warrant their use.
- Professional attire and good hygiene shall be required at all times.
- Questionable cases of proper grooming shall be referred to the Battalion Chief who will make the final determination.