

Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District Policy

Number: D 17

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Revised:

Date Effective: May 19, 2021

Subject: Ride Along

PURPOSE To define procedures to be enforced by sworn personnel and which must be followed by persons wishing to ride (hereafter referred to as ride applicant) with the Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District.

SCOPE This policy applies to all personnel who receive requests to ride along from members of the community. These procedures must be adhered to by anyone wishing to ride on any Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District apparatus of any description whether or not on a call.

POLICY The Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District welcomes and encourages riders to learn about the employees and services offered by this organization. However, riding with on duty fire personnel is a privilege; any conduct or appearance which may be deemed unprofessional by the company officer on duty will be grounds to deny or terminate the request to ride.

PROCEDURES

Section 1. Application

- 1.1 Ride applicants must obtain approval, in advance, by completing a Permission to Ride/Release at the Stratmoor Hills Fire station with and following all the guidelines set forth in the Instructions to Ride Along document.
- 1.2 Both documents are available via the SHFD website or may be obtained at the Stratmoor Hills fire station.
- 1.3 Each applicant (if not affiliated with Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District) must provide a criminal background check from the State of Colorado within the last three months from the date of the scheduled ride along. A member of another fire department, fire district, or law enforcement organization will not be required to provide a criminal background check as part of his or her application.
- 1.4 Members from other fire service agencies or law enforcement agencies must provide a letter from their fire chief or police chief giving them permission to participate with the ride along program at the Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District.

Section 2. Company Officer / Senior Drivers Responsibilities

- 2.1 Permission to Ride/Release must be signed by the Chief and the company officer or senior driver who will be on duty the day of the ride.
- 2.2 Company officers must ensure that there is no more than one rider scheduled at their assigned station for that day, and that the apparatus is equipped with sufficient safety belts and other legally required safety equipment to facilitate a safe experience for the rider.
- 2.3 Company officers must inform the Chief of the hours that a rider will be present with their company.
- 2.4 Company officers must contact the Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District Human Resources Captain to verify the rider's status.
- 2.5 Company officers will limit rides to no more than twelve (12) hours and all rides must conclude by 2300 hours unless specific permission is obtained from the Fire Chief.
- 2.6 Company Officers / Senior Drivers must route the completed Permission to Ride/Release form to Administrative Chief and keep a copy for the station files.
- 2.7 Approving officer must e-mail the Captain/Chief on his/her shift in sufficient time to place the rider on the SHFD calendar prior to the date of the ride.
- 2.8 At the time of the ride company officers must review all pertinent safety guidelines with the ride applicant to include:
 - Emergency procedures/safety measures
 - Scene etiquette and behavior
 - Overview of HIPAA regulations
 - Importance of confidentiality

Section 3. Ride Applicant

- 3.1 Ride applicants are limited to two rides per calendar year unless specific permission is obtained from the Fire Chief.
- 3.2 Ride applicant must pass a Criminal Background Check.
- 3.3 If an applicant works for another Fire Department, they must have a letter from their Chief or designee.
- 3.4 Ride applicants who are currently testing or who are on the entry level employment list are ineligible to ride.
- 3.5 Family members and personal friends of SHFD employees must comply with the

rules set forth in this policy.

3.6 Ride applicants must comply with all of the guidelines set forth in the Instructions to Ride-Along document.

3.7 Permission to ride with on duty fire crews will be restricted to ride applicants over the age of 18.

- i. Minors must have permission and signature of their parent or legal guardian to ride on fire apparatus **and** must be part of a department approved program such as: Explorer Scouts, Pikes Peak Community College Fire Science Program, high school Career classes (seniors only), Summer Heat, Pass the Torch, etc.
- ii. Minors not associated with one of the above stated programs must request permission to ride through the Chief and may only ride with a Captain or Chief.

3.8 Riders may at no time represent themselves as Stratmoor Hills Firefighters or employees of Stratmoor Hills (unless they are, in fact, such employees).

3.9 Riders will not be allowed to participate in emergency operations and must stay in a safe location identified by the company officer or his/her designee.

Section 4. General Guidelines

4.1 Permission to ride is based on, and prioritized in the following order:

- Support of internal non-sworn staff and support personnel.
- Support of government officials (Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection Board, County Commissioners, Civil Service Commission, State and Federal employees, etc.)
- Support of educational programs (Paramedic, EMT, etc.)
- Support of other pre-hospital health care providers.
- Support of other Stratmoor Hills employees in the performance of their duties (Stratmoor Hills Water District, Risk Management, Public Communications, etc.)
- Support of other employees or members of other departments.
- To educate and familiarize the general public with departmental operations.

4.2 Requests to ride may be denied or the time shortened at the discretion of the company officer on duty.

4.3 At no time shall a ride along take precedence over a prescheduled career or volunteer member. If the on-duty apparatus roster is full, no ride along will be permitted on that day.