



**Department of Emergency Services
Fire-EMS Division
Standard Operating Procedures**

General Policies

Subject: Ride Along Policy
Revised: 8-21-02
Section: 225.00

225.01 Purpose

To establish the necessary criteria and procedures for authorizing ride alongs on Fire-EMS emergency vehicles.

225.02 Policy

- A. Authorized ride alongs must meet one of the below listed criteria.
- B. Special requests for ride alongs which do not meet any of the criteria may be approved by the Emergency Services Director, Division Captain, or the Shift Lieutenant.

225.03 General Rules

- A. The rider must be 18 years of age or older.
- B. If the rider is under 18 and at least 16 and enrolled in a MFRI, EMT-B class as a student, then a parental consent form must be signed by the student's parents and this form must be obtained from the training Lieutenant.
- C. Anyone who is not a member of a Worcester County Volunteer Fire Company shall not participate in fire ground operations.
- D. All riders will fill out a "Rider Waiver Form" which will be submitted to the Shift Lieutenant who is in charge of the shift that the rider is observing on.
- E. All observers/riders will finish their ride along by 24:00 hours of the day that they have been observing.
- F. Any deviation from these general rules must have permission of both the on-duty Fire Chief and Shift Lieutenant.

225.04 Dress Code

- A. The observer will be advised to wear dark colored pants, dark work boots or shoes, and a dark colored shirt with a collar.
- B. The observer will also wear an "observer" identification card/pin.

225.05 Procedure

- A. A written request for ride alongs must be submitted to the Officer-In-Charge for that shift at least twenty four (24) hours in advance.
- B. The Fire-EMS personnel working that particular shift must agree to let the ride along participate.
- C. All participants must complete a "Rider Waiver Form" form before taking part in the program.
- D. Riding assignments shall be left to the discretion of the Officer-In-Charge on whose shift the participant plans to ride. Members of a Worcester County Volunteer Fire Company have priority for space.
- E. The Officer-In-Charge shall assign an escort for the participant in the ride along program for each tour of duty.
 - 1. Escorts would be responsible to show the participants around the station and explain to them the basic rules and regulations of the Fire-EMS Division.
 - 2. Escorts shall show the participants to their assigned place to ride and explain to them the procedure to follow during an alarm.
 - 3. On the fire ground, the ride along participants, who are not members of a Worcester County Volunteer Department shall stay with the escort to whom they are assigned and follow their advise for safety and observation.
- F. All participants in this program shall follow the rules and regulations as established by the Emergency Services Director and the rules and regulations of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company.