
Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines

EMS Operations

Subject: EMS Student Rider Program
Revised: 4-24-2012
Effective: 9-01-2012
Approved: 4-24-2012
Section: 304.00

304.01 Purpose

To establish the necessary criteria and procedures for the authorization of EMS student riders on Department vehicles.

304.02 Policy

- A. Authorized student riders must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. The rider must be 18 years of age or older.
 - a. if under the age of 18, the rider must have a parental consent form, to be obtained from the Fire-EMS Division Command Staff
 - 2. The rider must be enrolled in a First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic program.
- B. Special requests for observers may be approved by any Fire-EMS Division Command Officer.
- C. Priority for student riders are as follows:
 - 1. Ocean City Fire Department personnel
 - 2. Ocean City personnel
 - 3. Worcester County Volunteer Fire Company personnel
- D. All riders will complete a "Rider Waiver Form" prior to beginning the ride-along. Completed forms will be submitted to the Officer in Charge.
- E. All riders must be assigned to a Department approved FTO.
- F. Unless otherwise directed, the rider shall leave the Station by 2300 hours.

304.03 Dress Code for Riders

- A. If the rider is a student of a program that defines a required uniform, then that uniform dress code will replace our Departmental requirement.

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- B. All other riders will be advised to wear dark colored pants, dark boots or shoes, and an approved “home department” T-Shirt or a dark colored collared shirt.
- C. All riders shall have, and wear, a high visibility vest as defined by OCFD SOG.
- D. The rider will also wear an “Observer” identification card/pin.

304.04 Procedure

- A. A written request for riders should be submitted to a Fire-EMS Command Officer at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the planned date.
- B. All members of the crew must agree to have the EMS student.
- C. A “Rider Waiver Form” will be submitted to the Officer in Charge upon arrival.
- C. Unscheduled observations are at the discretion of the Officer in Charge.
- E. Upon arrival of the EMS student, the FTO will escort the student around the station while informing of the basic rules of the Department. The rider will be shown where to be seated on the vehicle.
- F. On a fire alarm, the rider shall stay with the vehicle to which they are assigned, and may not engage in fire suppression activities. The exceptions are members of Ocean City Fire Department or other Worcester County fire departments.
- G. All participants in the EMS student rider program shall follow the rules and regulations of the Ocean City Fire Department as established by the Fire Chief.
- H. All riders shall leave the station by 2300 hours, unless otherwise authorized.