

General Response
Observer Ride Along
Effective Date: March 2004
Replaces: August 2010
Revised: April 2014

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for persons who are not members of the District to ride on/in District Apparatus.

2. POLICY

Refer to [Operations Policy](#)

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. Allied professional: Any person who is employed by or volunteers for another Fire, EMS, Police, or other emergency services agency.
- 3.2. Civilian: Any person who is not a member of the District or an allied professional.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. **Appropriate purposes and frequencies for the ride along program**
 - 4.1.1. Education: Vocational curriculums through school, college, technical and vocational training; including District volunteer applicants.
 - 4.1.2. Firefighter training: Personnel from other fire departments.
 - 4.1.3. Public service: Council members, Commissioners, EMS employees, media, interested civilians.
 - 4.1.4. Frequency: Unless multiple visits are approved as part of a specific program or project, rider/observers are limited to one observer shift per calendar year.
- 4.2. **Waiver of liability/Ride along request**
 - 4.2.1. Rider/Observers must be at least 14 years old. Any observers

under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian signature.

- 4.2.2. Prospective rider/observers shall submit a signed Ride Request/Ride Waiver form at least one business day prior to the date of the observer shift.
- 4.2.3. The chief or designee will then either approve or disapprove the request, and if approved, make the necessary scheduling arrangements.
- 4.2.4. The rider/observer shall be accounted for by a Name Tag with "Rider/Observer" engraved. A designated "observer" jacket will be issued to the rider/observer for the duration of their participation. The jacket will be worn to clearly identify them outside of the response crew.
- 4.2.5. Rider/Observer will not participate in work on the emergency scene, unless directed otherwise by the officer.
- 4.2.6. Rider/Observers will be permitted between the hours of 0700 to 2200. Rider/Observers will not be permitted to remain in the station after 2200 hours unless specifically authorized by the Chief or designee.
- 4.2.7. The Ride Request/Ride Waiver form will be kept on file for a period defined in the District Record Retention Schedule.

4.3. **Responsibilities**

- 4.3.1. It shall be the responsibility of the rider/observer to complete the required form, comply with all rules of the program, and to obey all instructions of the officer in charge. The rider/observer will conduct him/herself responsibly and safely. The rider/observer shall dress in a neat and clean fashion including long pants and closed-toe shoes.
- 4.3.2. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief or designee to ensure that the application is reviewed, approved or disapproved, and to make appropriate arrangements with duty personnel.
- 4.3.3. It shall be the responsibility of the officer to ensure that the rider/observer complies with all rules, and to use common sense to ensure their safety in so far as is reasonably practicable.

5. **REFERENCES**

Ride Request/Ride Waiver form