

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

SOG 506

OBSERVER RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

- A. To define the standards and provide a consistent method of determining eligibility for observers to observe and participate in station house activities, and to accompany District units on routine and emergency runs.

II. SCOPE

- A. These standards apply to all Non-District personnel intending to ride-along with District personnel.

III. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It will be the responsibility of the Chief and District Line Officers to insure that these guidelines are followed.

IV. STANDARDS

- A. The ability of the District to accommodate non-members aboard District vehicles is significantly limited by the seating capacity. It will be the policy to accommodate observers on an irregular basis, subject to the availability of seating on apparatus.
- B. The decision to permit observers will rest with District officers. The officers will be responsible for assuring that particular individuals do not monopolize available observation opportunities.
- C. Friends and family of District personnel may ride along upon completion of the District's Ride-Along Agreement and Waiver of Claims and upon approval by an officer.
- D. Observers must be appropriately dressed for the fire service work environment. Generally, this will mean trousers, leather work shoes, and sleeved shirts. Observers will not be permitted to perform any acts other than observation, unless directed to do so by the apparatus officer and is appropriately dressed in PPE for the acts requested.
- E. Observers will not be permitted to take pictures or to make video or audio tapes unless pre-authorized in writing by the Fire Chief, or designee.
- F. Observers are guests at stations. Observers will provide their own food and will clean up after themselves.
- G. Observers are reminded that in the eyes of the public, they are with and therefore

a part of Jefferson County Fire District #1 and are to conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will not bring discredit upon the Department. Observers will be briefed on issues of medical confidentiality by the company officer and will be expected to respect the privacy of all parties and their families.

- H. You shall at all times adhere strictly to the fire officers directions.
- I. NOTICE: By signing this form you authorize the Jefferson County Fire District #1 to conduct a criminal background check along with other routine inquiries, prior to allowing you to participate in the ride-a-long program.
- J. Observers agree that their participation in the ride-a-long program may be terminated at any time for any reason and that they need not be informed of the reason for such termination.
- K. No alcohol is to be consumed prior to riding a-long. No person shall be allowed to ride who, in the opinion of the officer, is under the influence of intoxicants, prescription drugs or otherwise impaired.
- L. You may not carry weapons during this ride-a-long, including but not limited to mace or chemical agents, knives of any size, tazers or firearms. Prohibition of weapons includes persons authorized to carry weapons by permit. (Exception: law enforcement officers)
- M. If for any reason, the officer determines there to be a conflict of interest, jeopardy, or undo interference with their risk, they may terminate the ride-a-long and return to the station.

APPROVED:

DATE 08-10-2005

Earl Cordes
Fire Chief

Jefferson County Fire District #1
PO Box 30
Madras, OR 97741
541-475-7274



CONSENT TO RIDE

NAME OF RIDER: _____

In consideration for my participation in the Jefferson County Fire District #1 ride-a-long program, and in consideration for my being able to ride in selected fire apparatus on _____, I do hereby agree to assume all risk of personal injury or death, and property damage or loss from whatever cause that may be incurred or sustained by myself during my participation in the program.

I hereby agree to save and hold harmless the Jefferson County Fire District #1, their officers, employees and agents, from all claims and demands, causes of action, damage, costs, expenses and compensation on account of, or in any way growing out of personal injuries and property damages, that may be incurred or sustained by myself during this above mentioned program.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read this document, and I fully understand its content, and that I knowingly give this release and waiver.

Dated: _____

Signed: _____

Your birth date: _____

Note: If you are under 18, Parent/Guardian must sign for permission.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Date: _____