

# **SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**TITLE:** Ride Along Program

**REVISED:** 02/07/2008

**APPLIES TO:** All Personnel

**POLICY:** # 1200

**PAGE:** Page 1 of 4

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District that only authorized personnel will be permitted to ride on or in any Department vehicle except by authority of the Fire Chief or an Assistant Chief. This policy will be strictly adhered to and the officer in charge of an apparatus will be held accountable.

## **DEFINITION**

The Ride Along Program provides an opportunity for interested individuals to observe Fire District operations in a safe manner. Individuals will be allowed to ride in Fire District vehicles under emergency and non-emergency conditions.

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Requests will be accepted from members of the media or other agencies who wish to observe Fire District operations.
2. Requests will be accepted from members of an organized Fire Department or District for the purpose of gaining knowledge by observing operations and discussions with personnel.
3. Ride along in automobiles may be approved for any length of time and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## **PROCEDURES**

1. Individuals requesting to participate in the Ride Along Program may submit their request to the Fire Chief or an Assistant Chief.
2. The request must be made in writing under the represented organization's letterhead and members of the other Fire Departments or Districts must have authorization from their Director or Chief.
3. Each request must include the following:
  - a. Name
  - b. Organization, Department, or District
  - c. Purpose of Ride Along
4. The authorizing officer will review the request and approve or disapprove.
5. If the request is approved, the authorizing officer will fill out a Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement and affix their signature as approval.

**SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**TITLE:** Ride Along Program

**REVISED:** 02/07/2008

**POLICY:** # 1200

**APPLIES TO:** All Personnel

**PAGE:** Page 2 of 4

6. The authorizing officer shall return the signed Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement along with a Ride Along Instruction Sheet to the individual and notify the appropriate Battalion Chief or the Captain of the Station that was assigned.
7. The individual will submit the Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement and Instruction Sheet to the Station Officer that they have been assigned to upon arrival. The individual will sign both documents in the presence of the Station Officer, who will then sign as the witness.
8. The Station Officer shall forward both signed documents to the authorizing officer, who will review and then forward to Fire Administration for filing.

**SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**TITLE:** Ride Along Program

**REVISED:** 02/07/2008

**POLICY:** # 1200

**APPLIES TO:** All Personnel

**PAGE:** Page 3 of 4

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIDE ALONG PROGRAM**

1. The individual shall be under the command of the Officer of the station or vehicle to which assigned.
2. The individual shall remain seated with seatbelt buckled at all times when the apparatus is moving.
3. As a general rule, the individual shall only observe the operations from the apparatus, command post, or any location directed to by the Station Officer or the Incident Commander; however, at the sole discretion of the Officer in charge, said individual may participate in any operational activity or entry of any hazardous area.

Failure to adhere to the above instructions violates the procedures of the Ride Along Program and will result in approval being withdrawn. Furthermore, the individual will be ineligible to participate in the Ride Along Program again.

I understand and agree with the above instructions and will comply with each of them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**TITLE:** Ride Along Program

**REVISED:** 02/07/2008

**POLICY:** # 1200

**APPLIES TO:** All Personnel

**PAGE:** Page 4 of 4

**HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, by and between the SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, First Party, and \_\_\_\_\_, Second Party.

**WHEREAS**, the Second Party has requested permission to ride along and illustrated good reasons to ride along on Fire Department equipment and vehicles and the Second Party is willing to assume the risk which might be involved in this activity, and

**WHEREAS**, the First Party deems the Second Party’s reasons for requesting such permit to be reasonable and proper.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of First Party’s permission to Ride Along, Second Party agrees to and does hereby waive, on behalf of himself, his heirs and/or assigns, any and all claims whatsoever to damages, personal injuries, death, or any other loss which Second Party may suffer or receive while in or upon District premises or District-owned equipment.

The Second Party further agrees to save and hold harmless the First Party from any and all claims for damages, personal injuries, death, or otherwise, arising from, or in the course of, Second Party’s activity in riding along, including indemnification to First Party for any investigation or legal expenses incurred as a result of Second Party making said use of District premises and equipment.

**THIS AGREEMENT** shall be in force so long as the Party of the Second Party shall remain in or upon premises or equipment owned or under control of the First Party, for the purpose herein, before stated or while using facilities of the First Party in connection therewith during the day stated above.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Second Party hereunto sets his hand this day and year above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Second Party/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Ride Along

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Company Officer/Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Fire Chief/Date