

Okolona Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure

GENERAL SAFETY

Page Number: **Effective Date:**

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04/01/2011

Supersedes Editions:

07/01/2010, 12/10/2008,04/01/2007, 01/01/97, 02/04/90, 01/01/2005

Purpose: *Firefighting is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. To reduce the risk of injury to the members of this department, it will be necessary for everyone to know the hazards involved with firefighting, and to be alert at all times. Firefighter safety is a mutual agreement, the fire department will provide as safe of a working environment as practical, and the members shall do their utmost to prevent injuries through safe actions and practices. The procedure addresses safety in a general manner and other Standard Operating Procedures may address specific safety topics.*

Procedure:

1. All members are expected to practice safety in the discharge of their duties. No member of the fire department shall attempt to perform a task where he or she feels his or her safety is unreasonably jeopardized. No one shall be penalized for failure to perform the task for this reason when good faith is used.
2. No member shall operate tools, equipment or fire apparatus unless he or she has, or is receiving proper instruction on the tools, equipment or apparatus by someone who is qualified or certified and the member is under the immediate supervision of the trainer.
3. No one shall attempt any task or procedure for which he/she has not been properly trained.
4. Whenever a member observes an unsafe act, condition or practice, he/she should act promptly to remedy the unsafe act and notify an officer immediately. That officer shall initiate the appropriate action to remedy the hazard.
5. Face shields or other approved safety eyewear, are to be worn whenever using any hand tools, power tools, or pneumatic tools and welding/cutting. Issued safety glasses shall be the primary means of eye protection during auto accident rescue operations. Eye protection shall also be worn during medical responses where there is a potential for splashing, spraying, spattering, and generation of droplets of potentially infectious materials (blood borne pathogens).
6. When apparatus is traveling in reverse, there shall be ground guide unless the apparatus must be backed up in dire situations.
7. Standing in jump seats shall be avoided.
8. No one shall enter a fire building or other Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health environment without a Rapid Intervention Team in place as described in the Rapid Intervention Standard Operating Procedure.
9. No one shall attack a fire, enter the danger zone of a hazardous material incident, other Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health environment, without having proper protective equipment, including self contained breathing apparatus (as appropriate - structures, etc), and without having received the proper training.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

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10. Seat belts shall be worn by all persons in a fire department owned vehicle whenever the vehicle is in motion. Fire department members riding in other vehicles not owned by the fire department shall also wear seatbelts when the member is in the discharge of their duties. (This is not applicable when the vehicle is being maneuvered on fire department property or when the member is in the rear of an ambulance and the member is providing medical care to a patient). The person in charge of a fire department vehicle is responsible to ensure all persons have their seatbelts fastened prior to movement of the vehicle.
11. The following is applicable to the use of personal communication devices, such as but not limited to, cellular telephones, "smart telephones", Blackberry devices, text messaging devices or any other electronic communication device. (Fire department radio equipment is not considered a personal communications device):
 - A. Apparatus drivers shall NOT use personal communications devices at anytime while driving a fire apparatus, whether or not a "hands-free" device is available.
 - B. Apparatus officers and other crew members shall NOT use personal communications devices at anytime while the apparatus is responding to an incident, whether it is a Code 1 or Code 3 response. Apparatus officers and other crew members may use personal communications devices at other times.
 - C. There shall be NO use of personal communications devices in command cars, service vehicles or any other type of fire department vehicle while making a Code 3 response. This does include passengers of the vehicle (as someone trying to talk louder than the siren may be distracting to the driver).
 - D. Drivers of command cars, service vehicles or any other type of fire department vehicle may use personal communications devices when the vehicle is not making a Code 3 response, only if "hands free" devices are used. Passengers in command cars, service vehicles or any other type of fire department vehicle may use personal communications devices when the vehicle is not making a Code 3 response.
12. An apparatus officer may use a mobile data terminal while a vehicle is in motion as long as the screen is oriented away from the driver to avoid distraction.
13. Persons are forbidden to ride the tailboards of apparatus except during parades and the reloading of fire hose, and when the speed is no faster than walking speed. The fire chief may grant approval for other occasions, however in no circumstance should persons ride the tailboards on vehicles traveling greater than ten miles per hour (10 MPH).
14. Protective head gear shall be worn in the hose tower whenever moving hose or otherwise hoisting items.
15. "Fireball" gloves shall not be worn during firefighting operations. They may be used for overhaul, riding on apparatus, and in other situations where they will not be exposed to increased heat.

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16. Nomex or other approved fire resistant hoods shall be worn on all incidents, except for field, woods and grass fires.
17. It is the apparatus officer's responsibility to ensure his/her crew uses the buddy system.
18. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn when prudence dictates.
19. Except for properly supervised training evolutions, interior fire attack hose lines, interior search team and Rapid Intervention Teams shall not be staffed by only firefighters in recruit status. There must be at least one (1) certified firefighter on each interior fire attack line, interior search team and each Rapid Intervention Team. Apparatus officers, particularly those of first out units, must ensure their units are staffed accordingly.
20. Members taking rehabilitation, awaiting assignment or standing by on or near fire apparatus or other fuel burning vehicles shall be mindful of exposure to carbon monoxide from idling vehicles. If members are in the proximity of such vehicles, they are to move away to an area with fresher air at least once every 30-45 minutes. Additionally when remaining with apparatus is likely to last more than one hour, the member(s) must retrieve a carbon monoxide metering device and place the device in operation in the apparatus passenger area.
21. Whenever fire supply hose between a scene and fire hydrant is being loaded, fire apparatus should move forward instead of backing up, to re-load fire hose, straddling the hose under the apparatus.
22. Members must be mindful of loud noises produced by gasoline powered equipment, such as ventilation fans and generators and avoid congregating around such equipment while it is in operation.

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