

RESIDENT FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

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Purpose: *The Okolona Fire Protection District has dormitory rooms at stations 3 and 4 that may be used as living facilities for volunteer and career firefighters at no financial cost to the firefighter. In return the Resident Firefighter shall be reasonably available to respond to emergencies while residing at the fire station.*

Policy:

1. Participation as a Resident Firefighter is strictly voluntary and a firefighter may choose to discontinue participation at any time. When a Resident Firefighter chooses to discontinue participation, a written notice shall be sent to the Fire Chief through the officer in charge of the Resident Firefighter Program (also known as "Live-in Firefighters"). No advance notice is required, though advance notice is requested whenever possible.
2. A firefighter wishing to become a Resident Firefighter shall submit a written request to the Fire Chief through the officer in charge of the Resident Firefighter Program (also known as "Live-in Firefighters"). Such written request shall include a statement that the firefighter is knowledgeable of the Resident Firefighter Policy and agrees to abide by this policy.
3. Participation in the Resident Firefighter Program is conditioned upon compliance with this policy and other department rules, regulations, by-laws and procedures. The Fire Chief has the authority to terminate participation in the Resident Firefighter Program. A Resident Firefighter aggrieved by the chief's decision may submit an appeal to the Board of Trustees.
4. Resident Firefighters shall maintain the fire station dormitory as their primary residence. New Resident Firefighters (those who become Resident Firefighters after the effective date of this policy) shall use the station 4 dormitory facility unless it is at capacity, in which case the station 3 dormitory may be used.
5. Resident Firefighters shall:
 - Provide their own furniture, all of which shall be maintained in good condition.
 - Treat their personal living quarters as their own and may finish them as they wish. Any changes in interior wall, floor, or ceiling covering must be approved by the Fire Chief.
 - Provide their own food, linens and toiletries.

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

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Maintain their room in a clean, sanitary and presentable manner at all times including the proper storing of all personal items in their rooms. The Fire Chief or his designee will conduct periodic inspections. The Fire Chief may appoint a resident to oversee cleaning of the common areas. Residents not maintaining the standards of cleanliness as stated in these rules will receive a written notice for the first offense and may face eviction for any further offense. Be considerate of the right of other residents and person using the Fire Station.

Not make loud or excessive noise or engage in boisterous activity and be considerate of others at the fire station.

6. Resident's guests, including family members, are limited to the common areas of the fire station. Residents are responsible for the conduct of their guests. The "Mother Test" is applicable to conduct in dormitory areas. The "Mother Test" is defined as "Not doing anything you would do with your mother being present."
7. Any resident desiring a personal telephone, cable TV or other extra services in his or her personal quarters will be solely responsible for any cost incurred in installation, service or maintenance.
8. Residents are encouraged to secure adequate renters insurance and shall hold harmless the Fire District upon any loss or damage to property within the dormitory rooms.
9. The Fire District wishes to ensure the Resident's privacy in the dormitory room, nevertheless that right to privacy cannot interfere with the Fire District's responsibility to fulfill its functions and to conduct its day-to-day operations. With these purposes in mind, the Fire District reserves the right of entry into the Resident Firefighter's room for maintenance and upkeep and to provide for his or her health and safety. To ensure reasonable access to rooms by the Fire District and to comply with fire codes, additional locks of any kind are not permitted on room doors.
10. The Fire Chief or officer in charge of the Resident Firefighter Program, or other person designated by the Fire Chief may enter a roomer rooms under the following circumstances:
 - * For routine room inspections, to investigate damage or conditions potentially harmful to health and safety. Resident Firefighter should expect these inspections whenever the Fire Chief determines they are needed.
 - * For necessary maintenance or repairs.
 - * During emergency, such as fire, serious illness or injury.
 - * Whenever persons described above have reasonable cause to believe that the room is being used for a purpose which seriously interferes with the mission of the fire district, and its operation, discipline and compliance with this policy.
 - * At the invitation of the occupant of the room.

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11. The law concerning entry for search has been developed by the State and Federal Constitutions, the statutes and the courts. Entry for search of dormitory rooms by the Fire District is conducted within the boundaries of this law. It is the general policy that the Fire District will not allow access to dormitory rooms by law enforcement representatives for entry and search purposes, except under certain specific circumstances in compliance with existing laws. In any case, the Fire District is required to admit the police to any room when the law enforcement representatives have an arrest or search warrant for that room or occupant.
12. The Fire District reserves the right to dispose of any property left in a dormitory room after the eviction of a resident within five (5) days after such eviction.
13. There shall be no living creature of any type kept as a pet in the dormitory rooms.
14. There shall be no inoperative vehicles or any type left on the premises and the Resident Firefighter is allowed only one parking space except when approved by the Fire Chief.
15. The Fire District prohibits the possession or storage of firearms or other deadly weapons of any type in any dormitory room, except if they are unloaded and kept secured in a locked drawer or closet. This includes persons who are licensed under the provisions of KRS 537.115 to carry a concealed weapon.
16. The dormitory door shall be kept locked at all times when the resident is not in the dormitory area.
17. As of the effective date of this policy, only station 3 will be available for new Resident Firefighter use.

Emergency Response Expectations

1. Resident Firefighters must understand that this program is a privilege and public funds are involved with the provision of dormitory space along with utility usage as a result of dormitory use. In return, Resident Firefighters must agree to be at the fire station, available to respond to emergencies at a higher expectation than that of non-resident firefighters, whether they are volunteer or career firefighters.
2. Resident Firefighters are reminded that this is a voluntary program and the Resident Firefighter may elect to drop out of the program whenever he or she wishes to do so.
3. The expectation for Resident Firefighters, either volunteer, career or part-time firefighters is that the Resident Firefighter is present at the fire station or dormitory area between the hours of midnight and 7:00 AM, for a minimum of ten (10) days per month. In the case of career or part-time firefighters, regularly scheduled work hours may not be counted. Firefighters on leave (vacation, holiday etc) are relieved of this expectation during the period of the leave.

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4. Resident Firefighters being on extended leave due to illness/injury will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. No later than the 5th date of each month, Resident Firefighters shall provide a written statement to officer in charge of the Resident Firefighter Program. This statement shall state that they were present at the fire station or dormitory area for the required days and number of hours and they responded to Qualified Emergency Incidents. If the Resident Firefighter did not due to being on extended leave, a reason shall be included in the statement. The statement applies to the preceding month. Any falsification of this statement will subject the Resident Firefighter to being dropped from the Resident Firefighter Program or other disciplinary action.
6. When Resident Firefighters are present at the fire station or dormitory area, they are expected to respond to Qualified Emergency Incidents such that they are able to board either the first or second out apparatus in a timely manner.
7. For the purpose of this policy, Qualified Emergency Incidents are those incidents to which a second apparatus will respond from the station associated with the dormitory. While Qualified Emergency Incidents are thought of as incidents to which more than one station is dispatched, a second single apparatus incident would be considered as a Qualified Emergency Incident if the first responding apparatus is involved with another incident.
8. In the case of full or part-time firefighters, compensation shall be paid for response to Qualified Emergency Incidents from the beginning of the incident until the firefighter is released. Compensation is not paid for incidents that are not Qualified Emergency Incidents.
9. When a Resident Firefighter responds to a Qualified Emergency Incident and has not boarded an apparatus, he/she is expected to remain on the first floor of the fire station until the apparatus assigned to the station has gone available or if the Incident Commander has released the personnel standing by at the station.

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