



Davis Fire Department

Firefighter Observer Ride-Along Program

Guidelines

530 Fifth St., Davis, CA 95616

Phone: (530) 757-5684

Fax: (530) 757-5685

fireweb@cityofdavis.org



GUIDELINES

These guidelines establish procedures for Davis Fire Department's (DFD) Firefighter Observation Ride-Along Program (FORP) for on-duty crews when hosting civilian guests during both emergency and non-emergency activities. Observers will be asked to review a copy of these "guidelines" and agree to all the stipulations herein. Failure to agree to and abide by any of these terms will result in immediate denial or termination of ride-along privileges.

I. Definition

- A. A "Requestor" shall be any person/civilian not yet approved to participate with on-duty firefighters as an Observer.
- B. An "Observer" shall be any person/civilian approved to ride on and participate with on-duty firefighters, to include approval to ride on official fire department apparatus.
- C. Paramedic students, current Firefighter candidates participating in the testing process with the DFD and Davis Fire Department members shall not be considered as Observers.

II. Requirements

- A. Interested persons wishing to participate in the FORP must complete the prescribed packet. Requestors must be at a minimum of 18 years old, and complete an Application Form, view the HIPAA training self-study presentation and sign the Acknowledgement of HIPAA Obligations prior to receiving administrative approval.
 - 1. The above described FORP packet (II.A.) Is accessible on-line at the DFD website: <http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/fire-department/public-education/ride-along-program>
 - 2. Once completed, the FORP packet is to be mailed or dropped off by the requestor for consideration and approval at:
Davis Fire Department, 530 Fifth St., Davis, CA 95616
 - i. No person shall ride without having first completed and submitted the FORP Packet.

- ii. Once approved, a Chief Officer or Designee will contact the Requestor for confirmation with details regarding the ride-along request.

- B. A Battalion Chief will assign the Requestor to an Officer, who will coordinate times and dates with the Requestor.

- C. The normal hours of operation for the FORP is between 0800-1700 hours, seven days a week.

- D. Failure of the Observer to arrive at the scheduled time may result in loss of ride-along privileges.

- E. No more than one (1) Observer will be permitted to participate at the same station at the same time.

- F. Observers will be under the supervision of the Captain at all times.

- G. Observers shall check in with the assigned on-duty Captain immediately upon arriving. Observers shall comply with all directions provided by fire department personnel throughout the ride-along observation period. If conflicting directions are given, default to the direction provided by the on-duty Captain or higher ranking Officer.

- H. DFD reserves the right to deny ride-along privileges to any person whose conduct and/or appearance is or becomes or is perceived as a detriment to the Department.

Observer Clothing Requirements:

- ✓ Pants should be neat and clean with no holes preferably black, dark blue or khaki in color and worn at the waist level.
- ✓ Collared shirts preferably dark blue or black in color should not have obscene or graphic language or pictures on them, no tee shirts.
- ✓ Hats are recommended as crews frequently operate outdoors for extended periods of time and should not have obscene or graphic language or pictures on them.
- ✓ No clothing or hats with advertising or promotional logos will be permitted. All attire shall be conservative in nature.
- ✓ Footwear: Dark colored heavy shoes or boots in good condition, with no holes, are recommended. Steel-toed boots are preferred. Sneakers, tennis or running shoes are permitted (No sandals, or open-toe shoes)
- ✓ Skirts or shorts are not permitted.
- ✓ Dark blue jacket or sweatshirt is preferable for cold weather.

- ✓ EMT/Paramedic students, Fire Interns or Fire Recruits should wear their uniform.

Observer Grooming Requirements:

- ✓ Hair must be kept clean and groomed.
- ✓ Extreme hair styles may be denied.

- I. The Company Officer may end the Firefighter Observer Ride-Along visit at any time if their appearance, behavior or attitude is a distraction, disruptive, dangerous or unacceptable in any way.
- J. The Firefighter Observer Ride-Along can be amended at any point, at the discretion of the Chief Officer.
- K. Observers are only allowed to observe operations and shall not actively participate, engage in, or become directly involved in the work of the crew(s). For extenuating circumstances, approved by the Designated Officer, the Observer may participate in an incident under the direct supervision of the Designated Officer. However, allowing the Observer to actively participate with the crew does not make the supervisor or the Department liable for any harm to the Observer.
- L. Observers are to be instructed and provided guidance with respect to patient confidentiality and are not to discuss details of the patient's health care information (or non-medical personal details) with anyone.
- M. Observers must have the ability to function in such a way as to not encumber or impede the crew's operations or ability to respond or perform their duties in any way. In other words, the observer shall not become an additional burden on the crew.
- N. Any violations of the FORP guidelines may result in immediate suspension or termination of FORP privileges.

III. Day of the Ride-A-Long

A. Arrival Time at the Fire Station

1. Please arrive at or before **0800** at the designated fire station location (or the time assigned by the Chief Officer or designee). You will have an opportunity to observe fire personnel's morning routine and become familiar with the apparatus, the equipment, industry lingo and other pertinent information. If the fire company is out of quarters, please wait as the resource may already be assigned to an incident.

B. What to do Upon Arrival

1. Upon arrival, **ask for the Station Captain.**
2. He/she will brief you on your role, introduce you to the crew and provide you with initial guidance. You may be provided a partner to whom you will be attached throughout your ride-along.

C. Morning Routine

1. Personnel are assigned at fire stations by shifts (A, B, & C)
2. At 0800 hours station personnel shift change occurs (Example: A-Shift leaves for the day and share information with the oncoming shift B-Shift.
3. At approximately 0830 hours equipment on the apparatus are checked for functionality and readiness.

D. Meals

1. Observers may bring their own food or eat with the crew.
2. Firefighters normally participate in group meals with each contributing between \$5 - 10 per day. Meals are typically eaten around noon & 1700 hours.
3. After lunch and dinner, the kitchen including dishes are cleaned by all.
4. As part of the crew, you may be asked to assist with kitchen clean up and /or other routine duties.

E. Emergency Situations

1. Your safety, and potentially ours, strictly depends on us knowing your whereabouts at all times.
2. If we are unaware of your whereabouts, you will be assumed lost and/or injured. This will create another dynamic for the Captain to reconcile. Therefore, it is paramount that you adhere to the guidance and direction provided by the Captain. If in doubt, remain on the fire apparatus.

F. Responding to Emergencies

1. Seat belts shall be worn at all time when the vehicle is in motion.
2. The crew will inform you where you are to be seated on the apparatus.
3. Follow the direction of the Captain or designated lead crew person.
4. When on scene of auto accidents or fires of any type, you are required to wear a traffic safety vest and remain in the apparatus until directed otherwise by the Captain or designated lead crew person.

SHALL NOT'S

- SHALL NOT operate any mechanical equipment
- SHALL NOT operate, drive, or move any DFD apparatus or unit
- SHALL NOT enter the HOT ZONE (NEAR FIRE)
- SHALL NOT observe in areas beyond your comfort level
- SHALL NOT observe in areas outside the direction provided by the Captain or designated lead crew person
- SHALL NOT use a cell phone, pager, radio or any other recording device with them during the visit.

SHALL'S

- SHALL meet and brief with Captain or Lead personnel upon arrival
- SHALL wear your identification badge
- SHALL always wear your seat belt
- SHALL follow the instructions of fire personnel
- SHALL obtain permission and brief before leaving the station at the end of the day

CANCELLING or ARRIVING LATE

Please contact the on-duty Battalion Chief at (530) 757-5647, if you anticipate being late for the Firefighter Observer Ride-Along. If no answer, please leave a message.

DFD Station Locations: (530) 757-5684 (main line)

- Station 31 530 Fifth St., Davis CA 95616
- Station 32 1350 Arlington Dr., Davis CA 95616
- Station 33 425 Mace Blvd., Davis CA 95616