

# EL DORADO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

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**ARTICLE: 2 ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES EFFECTIVE DATE: 2-17-2003**

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**SECTION: 26 HOLD HARMLESS /RIDE ALONG REVISED: 02-20-2020**

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2.26.1 **PURPOSE:** The El Dorado County Fire Protection District (District) offers and operates many programs designed to educate or instruct members of the public, other than employees of the District, through participation in the services offered by the District. Some of these programs, among others, include the Explorer program, the ROP program, the Shadow program, and ride-along program. These programs may include use of District equipment and /or facilities. These programs benefit those members of the public who participate in them by providing an insight into the services offered by the District. Participants can evaluate a possible future career opportunity in the fire service or participants can use the program for personal enrichment or to provide useful insights into the services offered to the public by the District and an understanding of the essential role of the District in the community services.

2.26.2 **POLICY:** To preserve public funds, the District's policy is to require all participants in the programs offered by the District to sign a Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk form provided by the District prior to permitting any participation in the programs. Any participant who refuses to sign the form will not be permitted to participate in any of the programs offered by the District.

2.26.3 **PROCEDURE:** All participants will be required to sign the Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk form and return it to the District at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to participation in any of the District's programs. If the participant is a minor, the form will have to be signed by both parents unless only one parent is living or unless only one parent has legal custody. If the minor has a guardian, the guardian must provide a certified copy of a letter of guardianship.

2.26.4 All participants shall obtain a blank copy of the Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk forms from either the station Captain or Administration. The completed forms must be submitted to the Administration. If the participant is approved to ride-along they will be issued a copy with the authorizing Administrator's signature and date. The original form will be kept on file at the Administration station. The participant shall present a signed copy of the Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk form to the Station Captain prior participating in any District "ride-along" program.

2.26.5 Minors: All minors shall complete a District "Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of the Risk" form in accordance with this policy. The form(s) must be signed by both parents. Exceptions are included on the form

2.26.6 Adults: All adults shall complete a District "Release and Waiver of Liability and Assumption of the Risk" form in accordance with this policy.

2.26.7 The Captain shall be responsible for the safety, appearance, well being and performance of the participant at all times. He/she shall have full authority with any participant regarding items, issues, or scenarios not addressed by policy or procedure.

2.26.8 Captains shall notify the Duty Chief prior to ride along session commencing.

2.26.9 The necessary Personal Protective Equipment should be issued, if not available from sponsoring agency. As a minimum the participant should be issued latex gloves, and wildland PPE to include; a coat, pant, helmet, gloves, eye protection hearing protection. Fire shelter may be utilized from engine inventory. Structural PPE may be worn if issued by sponsoring agency. Refer to ECF SOP's for minimum standard.

**2.26.10 EMS Calls:**

A. No patient care shall be provided by the participant without proper certifications. Minimum certification to provide patient care is First Aid.

B. Universal precautions. All participants should be instructed in use of universal precautions and communicable diseases prior to making any patient contact.

C. Participants are not allowed to enter the following types of calls: Suicide, attempted suicide, rape, or any other violent/dangerous environments deemed inappropriate by the Captain. Care should be taken to limit exposure of participants to potentially traumatic or emotional calls.

D. All participants must be aware of and follow all HEPA laws.

**2.26.11 Fire Calls:**

A. Participants may only observe these types of calls from a safe location as deemed appropriate by the Captain.

B. Participants may participate in non IDLH activities as approved by the Captain.

C. Participant may be left at the station depending on dispatch information weather conditions, and/or the Captain's discretion.

2.26.12 In the event a participant is injured during the course of a ride along session the Captain shall: 1) Administer any aid necessary, 2) Notify the Duty Chief immediately and 3) Complete all required forms as required per District policy.

2.26.13 All participants must be dressed appropriately as per the Captains discretion.

2.26.14 If an agency uniform is unavailable please use the following guidelines for appropriate dress:

A. Dark shirt: Pull over or button up. Long or short sleeve. No emblems or markings unless District approved Class "C" uniform.

B. Dark pants. Long pants only. No skirts or dresses. Natural fiber recommended.

C. Footwear: Recommend boots, black or brown only. Other shoes permitted with Captain approval. No open toe shoes allowed.

D. All apparel shall be neat, clean, and appropriate.

2.26.15 Hours:

A. Ride along hours are between 0800 – 2000 hours.

B. After hours ride along requires Duty Chief approval.

**2.26.16 DEFINITIONS:**

Dangerous Environment: Any environment that would pose a hazard to an untrained individual.

Fire District Activities: Training, emergency responses to fires, medical aids, hazardous materials incidents and other hazards, fire prevention activities, public education and other duties as required

Job Shadow: Job training program sponsored by Local High Schools to orient high school students to various community jobs. Usually only one day duration.

Participant: Any individual who has completed the required paperwork as per policy, rides on ECF equipment and remains in the stations as a ride-along participant.

ROP: Regional Occupational Program – Occupational training program sponsored by El Dorado Union High School District. Approximately 3 – 4 month duration for ride along by students

Universal Precautions: With regard to emergency medical responses. The basic protection all responders use to protect themselves from communicable diseases. Latex gloves as a minimum. May include but not limited to, eye protection, gowns, face protection, and airway protection.