

## SECTION I: GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### **1.1 GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

- 1.1.1 Each member shall be responsible for keeping his gear clean and in good condition. This includes helmet, coat, bunker pants, boots, gloves, SCBA mask, flash hood, and any other equipment that may be issued to him.
- 1.1.2 Officers and members, when engaged in firefighting operations, emergencies, or drills, shall wear proper protective gear.
- 1.1.3 Members are required to surrender all fire department property in their possession upon request or separation from the company.
- 1.1.4 Members shall be courteous and orderly in their dealings with the public. They shall perform their duties quietly, avoiding harsh, profane, violent, or insolent language. Upon request they will supply their names and rank in a gentlemanly manner.
- 1.1.5 Members shall be courteous when answering the telephone and shall supply information as requested unless directed otherwise by department regulations or a Chief officer. (See Section 2.8, Press Releases.)
- 1.1.6 It is the policy of the Washington Township Fire District to refrain from non-fire district political activity. No member of the Fire District, while on duty or when wearing fire department apparel, shall use their official authority or influence to coerce the political actions of any person.

## SECTION I: GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### **1.2 BEHAVIOR AT THE FIREHOUSE**

- 1.2.1 Members shall behave in a responsible manner while at the firehouse. Excessive rowdiness in and around the firehouse shall not be tolerated.
- 1.2.2 At no time are alcoholic beverages permitted on any piece of apparatus or on any fireground or drill location.
- 1.2.3 Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the bays.
- 1.2.4 Tampering with personal protective gear or other department issued equipment is prohibited.
- 1.2.5 Officers and members shall treat superior officers, subordinates, and associates with proper respect. They shall be courteous and civil to one another while at the firehouse and when involved in fire department functions.
- 1.2.6 Personal cars are not to be left unattended on the apron. Momentary parking shall be allowed to load or unload supplies.
- 1.2.7 Weather permitting, members may use the truck bays for performing maintenance on personal vehicles. Under no conditions may a fire vehicle be blocked in by a personal vehicle. When finished working, the member using the bay shall remove all trash, including that already in the trash cans, put it in a dumpster and sweep and clean the floor.

## SECTION I: GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

### **1.3 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING FIRE ALARMS**

- 1.3.1 Response to the firehouse: While responding to the firehouse, all laws and rules of the State of New Jersey and the Township of Washington, or any other municipality through which a member may travel, shall be adhered to. The Fire District will assume no responsibility for driving negligence on the part of a member responding to the firehouse and will provide no monetary or legal assistance should such negligence result in a citation and/or accident. Any member who is cited for a traffic violation under these circumstances shall be suspended from any or all fire department activities. The duration of the suspension shall be determined by the Battalion Chief in accordance with Section VII of the Standard Operating Procedures.
- 1.3.2 Visible warning devices are allowed for use on privately owned vehicles through possession of the proper permit, as described below. No warning devices are authorized for use by firefighters on private vehicles other than those specified on the given permit.
- 1.3.2.1 The use of blue warning lights by firemen responding to alarms is permitted under N.J.A.C. 13:24-5.1 et seq. Authorized use of blue lights is dependent upon possession of the proper permit: members may use blue lights only if they have a permit.
- 1.3.3 Parking: When responding to an alarm, members should park at the firehouse in an orderly manner, allowing adequate space for others to park.
- 1.3.4 **REMOVED**
- 1.3.5 Securing the station: The driver of the last truck out is responsible for closing the bay doors. Under no circumstances shall bay door controls be activated before the apparatus is entirely clear of the bay.
- 1.3.6 Definition of an **"EMERGENCY"**: An **"EMERGENCY"** is a situation in which there is a high probability of death or serious injury to an individual, or significant property loss, and the action of the fire department may reduce the seriousness of the situation. Examples of this include, but are not limited to; any type of actual fire, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, alarm systems in buildings, hazardous materials spill, etc.

1.3.7 Definition of a **"NON-EMERGENCY"**: A **"NON-EMERGENCY"** is a situation requiring the services of the fire department in which there is no known threat of death or serious injury to an individual, and there is no known or perceived threat of property loss. Examples of a non-emergency include, but are not limited to; any previous emergency that has been **evaluated** and **determined** by a commanding officer from the Washington Township Fire Department that the criteria established in 1.3.6 is no longer applicable, any routine stand-by assignments, animal assistance when people and property are not at risk, cover assignments to other department fire stations, etc.