

## Payson Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

**Category: SOP**

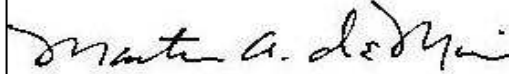
**Section: General**

**Subject: Rider/Observer Program**

**SOP # 2.1.3**

**Date Adopted: 10/09**

**Revision Hx: 1/12**



### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for parties interested in riding with or observing Payson Fire Department (PFD) operations.

### **POLICY**

The PFD is interested in sharing our experiences with citizens, residents and others who may want to observe fire department operations. Observers will be treated with respect and the PFD will strive to accommodate them with an emphasis on safety, familiarization with the PFD's mission and methods and improving community relations.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **Program**

The PFD's Rider/Observer program will follow the guidelines listed below:

- A. Rider/Observer must schedule observation time with the on-duty battalion chief; a message should be forwarded to the battalion chief and engine company captain who will be on-duty during the observation time.
- B. No more than one rider/observer per unit will be scheduled unless approved by the engine company captain.
- C. Riders/Observers must be at least age 13 and a minimum of 4' 9" tall. State law requires vehicle passengers under 4'9" tall to use a booster seat. This is so that the passenger restraint system will operate properly. The PFD does not provide booster seats.
- D. Those Rider/Observers under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian permission.
- E. Hours from 0800 to 2200. Students that are part of a fire or EMS training program may be allowed to extend the hours with approval of the engine company captain.
- F. Appropriate dress:
  1. Trousers
  2. Shirt without offensive markings or verbiage
  3. Shoes (No open toe shoes or sandals)
- G. Release of Information and Hold Harmless Agreement signed.
- H. Students that are part of a fire or EMS training program must comply with all requirements of their program.
- I. Rider/Observers that are not part of a fire or EMS training program are prohibited from participating in incident operations and are to observe only.
- J. Rider/Observers are responsible for providing their own meals unless arrangements are made with the engine company captain.
- K. Rider/Observers must follow all instructions of the fire crew or they may be dismissed from the observation opportunity. All Rider/Observers will complete a safety/operations briefing at the start of the observation period.

#### **Paperwork**

On the following page is a copy of the Rider/Observer Release of Information and Hold Harmless Agreement that must be completed and signed prior to the observation time. This release will be kept on file for a period of at least 6 months after the completion of the observation time.

**PAYSON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RIDER/OBSERVER  
RELEASE OF INFORMATION  
AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Rider/Observer program at the Town of Payson Fire Department (Department), I, on behalf of myself, and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby waive and release any and all claims for damages, for death, personal injury, loss of property or property damage participant may have, or that may subsequently accrue to participant, or to participant's heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, as a result of my participation in the event. Participants discharge and release in advance the Town of Payson Fire Department and any of its agents or employees from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in the program, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above.

Participants are fully aware that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with participating in the program and are fully aware that there may be risks and hazards unknown to participants associated with the program. Participant elects to voluntarily participate in the program and engage in activities knowing that conditions may be hazardous and/or dangerous to me and/or my property. Participant voluntarily assumes full responsibility for any risks of loss, property damage, or personal injury, including death that may be sustained as a result of participation in the program whether caused by the negligence of the Department or otherwise.

The participant also understands that they may observe and learn of certain protected information and further understand that this information shall remain confidential. Film photographs, digital photographs, videos and other recordings and depictions obtained while participating in this program shall be considered the property of the Department and not be retained or released by the participant without consent of the Fire Chief or designee.

The participant further understands that the participant's likeness or image may be recorded in the form of photographs or videos by the Department and used by the Department for advertising, public education and public relations purposes as elected by the Department and agrees to and approves of this use of their likeness or image for these purposes.

Participant has read this Release and fully understands it terms, understand that participant is giving up substantial rights by signing the Release, and is signing it freely and voluntarily. Participant's signature is a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Parent or Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witnesses Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witnesses Signature

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_