

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedure

S.O.P.: GP-8
Effective: 05/23/2023
Revised:
Reviewed:

Fire Chief Signature

DATE

Subject: Ride-Along Program

Scope: All Personnel

Policy:

It is the policy of Dalton Fire Department to allow members of the community to ride as observers in fire department vehicles and apparatus upon proper request and authorization.

Guidelines:

- Any person, not a member of Dalton Fire Department, wishing to ride as an observer in a fire department vehicle or apparatus shall complete a ride-along application packet (Appendix A) and submit it to Dalton Fire Department Administration for approval at least forty-eight hours in advance.
- Any person wishing to ride as an observer in a fire department vehicle or apparatus must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, unless the activity is fulfilling an educational requirement from an approved school curriculum. Any person wishing to ride for an educational requirement must receive approval from the Fire Chief within the timeline aforementioned.
- The following categories of persons shall not be allowed to ride as observers: persons with known felony convictions; persons with mental incompetence; persons with medical problems; or other persons disqualified by the Fire Chief. Prospective ride-along observers may be the subject of a criminal history check through NCIC/GCIC.
- In every case, the needs of the department and availability of resources shall determine whether a request to ride as an observer is approved. Priority shall be given to applicants intended for observation by 911 Operators, news media, education research, or similar purposes.
- If an observer interferes with operations, the officer-in-charge shall return the observer to the station and advise the battalion chief of the circumstances.
- All program participants are required to reflect a neat and clean appearance and are expected to pay for their own meals and refreshments.

- During the response to an emergency incident involving a fire or other potential life-threatening circumstances that may expose the observer to undue risk of injury, the officer-in-charge shall direct the observer to remain in the vehicle or report to command. In all circumstances, the observer shall follow the direction of the officer-in-charge.
- Observers are not permitted to carry weapons, including firearms, pepper sprays, or knives, while riding along, unless they are certified Georgia Peace officers in good standing and Dalton Police Department has been notified of the observer.
- Observers are limited to normal business hours, to be considered between 8am-5pm, unless otherwise approved by the Deputy Chief or Fire Chief.
- While participating in a ride-along, no observer is allowed to enter into a residence or any other location where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists. This excludes 911 Operators who are participating as a part of their initial job training, and who have a thorough understanding of HIPAA.
- Audio and video recordings shall not be allowed by any observer during a ride-along, unless authorized by the Deputy Chief or Fire Chief.

Appendix A



DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT Application for Ride Along

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| _____ | _____ | <u>IF BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED</u> |
| Full Name (please print) | Date of Birth | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Social Security Number |
| Home Address | Race | Sex |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| City, State, Zip Code | _____ | Driver's License Number & State |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Telephone # | _____ | Signature |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Secondary Telephone # | _____ | Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age) |

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Preferred dates to ride: Choice One: _____ Choice Two: _____ Choice Three: _____

Shift preference (optional): _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

Witness

Date

**Todd Pangle
Fire Chief**



**404 School Street
Dalton, GA 30720
<http://daltonga.gov>
P: 706.278.7363**

DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT Appropriate Dress Guidelines for Ride Along

Clothing must be neat and clean.

Appropriate business clothing will be acceptable.

Casual style pants and a shirt with a collar are acceptable.

A cap or other inclement weather clothing (jacket, rain-wear) is acceptable, as long as it does not indicate anything of an inappropriate nature.

Footwear that covers the foot (no open toe and provides protection from varying conditions is required.

No tank tops, shorts, or t-shirts allowed.

No skirts, dresses, or mid-drift shirts allowed.

No torn clothing allowed.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Appropriate Dress Guidelines.

Signature

Date

Todd Pangle
Fire Chief



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DALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Waiver of Liability

WHEREAS, the undersigned, desires to ride with the City of Dalton Fire Department, whether on a fire apparatus or passenger vehicle, in order to observe the activities of the City of Dalton Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned does hereby declare and agree to the following:

(a) to release, defend, indemnify and save harmless the City of Dalton, its officers, directors, employees, and any other person, firm or corporation charged or chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, assigns and agents, from any and all costs, expenses, restrictions, claims, demands, suits, actions, proceedings, damages, liabilities, deficiencies, judgments, levies, costs or expenses, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and expenses of any kind and nature, including, but not by way of limitation, any claim for damages to property or injuries to or death relating to or arising from riding with the City of Dalton Fire Department or arising out of any activities in connection with the ride-along with the City of Dalton Fire Department, unless caused by intentional and / or willful or wanton acts of the City of Dalton's officers or employees;

(b) to reimburse the City of Dalton any legal fees and other costs incurred in the City of Dalton's defense of any claim or action arising out of any ride-along with the City of Dalton Fire Department. The City of Dalton shall have the right to participate in the defense of any claims or litigation and shall have the right to approve any settlement;

(c) that this waiver is also a release which extends and applies to, and also covers and includes, all unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated and unsuspected injuries, damages, loss and liability, and the consequences thereof, as well as those now disclosed and known to exist. The provisions of any state, federal, local or territorial law or statute providing in substance that releases shall not extend to claims, demands, injuries or damages which are unknown or unsuspected to exist at the time, to the person executing such release, are hereby expressly waived;

(d) acknowledge that this waiver and release hereby releases and discharges the City of Dalton, its officers, directors, employees and agents, of any and all claims, relating to any bodily and personal injuries or damages to property and the consequences thereof resulting from their participation in the ride-along with the City of Dalton Fire Department absent the City of Dalton's officer's or employee's intentional, willful, or wanton act or reckless conduct. The undersigned further covenants with the City of Dalton that they, their heirs, executors, assigns and transferees will never at any future time sue the City of Dalton for or on account of any claim for damages arising out of their participation in the ride-along with the City of Dalton Fire Department whether such claims arise by the negligence of the City of Dalton, its employees or agents, or by the negligence of any other participant except when there is intentional willful or wanton misconduct or acts on the part of the City of Dalton's officers or employees;

Todd Pangle
Fire Chief



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(e) the agreement of the City of Dalton to allow the undersigned to riding with the City of Dalton Fire Department, is not to be construed as an admission of liability and acceptance of assumption of responsibility by the City of Dalton, its officers and members.

WITNESS the hand and seal of the undersigned, this _____ day of _____, 20_____

“Undersigned”:

(sign here)

Signed, sealed, sworn to, and Subscribed
before the undersigned unofficial witness and
notary public

Unofficial Witness

Notary Public
Commission Date: