



COMMUNITY RELATIONS	GO 10.1
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APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE DATE: 01-01-2012

Purpose:

To provide a department Ride Along program to encourage community awareness of the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority operations as well as allied professional cooperation and networking.

Responsibility:

It shall be the responsibility of all personnel involved in the scheduling, briefing, and supervision of ride along participants to follow this GO to ensure safety of the individual.

- General Program Goal:** Loveland Fire Rescue Authority subscribes to the fact that we are a community partner providing a public safety service. The goal of the ride along program is to acquaint any interested citizen or fellow firefighter in the operation of our fire and rescue department. It should be understood that, because of potential danger to riders, the ride along program is a privilege and that application must be made and approved prior to any ride along.
- Application Process:** Person wishing to participate in the ride along program must make application by completing all the required forms. These include:
  - Ride Along Program Release Agreement
  - Ride Along Request Application

Completed forms should be submitted to the Community Safety Division to initiate the approval process. Once approved, the applicant shall be notified and advised of the date, time and reporting instructions for the ride along. Applicants will be limited to four (4) ride alongs per year. Any exceptions must be approved by the Chief. Please keep the GO 10.1 pages for you to review and understand prior to attending your ride along. Applications need to be turned-in at least one week prior to your requested ride along date. Applicants may either mail or bring in the documents to: 410 E. Fifth St., Loveland, CO 80537. You may also email the scanned-in documents to Bonnie Wright at mail to: <mailto:bonnie.wright@lfra.org>

**3. Specific Rules for a Ride Along:**

- The Officer in charge of the station where a ride along has been approved is responsible to brief the rider prior to the actual ride along of the risks involved and the guidelines contained in the General Operations Policy.
- Other Specific Rules for Riders Include: (This page to be included with the Ride Along Release form in order to provide rider with pertinent information)
  1. Observers and Limited Participants must be 18 years old or older, unless approved by the Chief.
  2. No "uniforms" are allowed. Preferably, riders will wear a navy blue shirt and pants or jeans that are not tattered, torn, faded or worn hanging low. No open toe shoes or shorts are allowed. Rider's clothing attire should reflect a positive public appearance. A firefighter's coat or vest and hard-hat will be issued to riders. Appropriate cold-weather gear (gloves, hat, socks, etc.) are the responsibility of the rider.



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3. The ride along may be terminated for any reason during the scheduled ride by the officer in charge of the station.
4. Cameras are allowed although no identifying picture of any victim may be reproduced in any form.
5. The officer in charge of the rider has the responsibility to ensure that the rider does not participate in any risk-taking action. No Exceptions.
6. Riders shall follow all officer and firefighter instructions and directions.
7. Riders should not offer comments or instructions with victims or other members of the public while responding to, or on scene of an incident.
8. Any questions asked of the rider by bystanders or other agency representatives should be forwarded to the Fire Rescue Authority personnel on scene.
9. Riders may be exposed to privileged information and identities during the course of a ride along. This information MUST remain CONFIDENTIAL. No repeat of a victim, patient, or other person's name, address, or circumstance is allowed.
10. Riders may respond Code 3 with assigned crews. The rider must ride in a designated seat, with seat belt securely fastened, prior to response. **Riders must remain in the designated seat until they are instructed to release.**
11. Riders must be cautious and alert around incident scenes and be especially alert to moving vehicles, hose lines, persons carrying tools, noise hazards, and unstable footing.
12. For the safety of the rider, the Officer in charge may decide to drop off the rider en route to an incident due to the potential environmental risks associated with that incident. Examples could include wildland fires, hazardous materials release, or other situations where the rider would be at risk just being in the apparatus. The Officer may instruct the rider to leave the immediate incident area and seek shelter. Under these conditions, the rider shall seek a safe, secure area until the rider is allowed to approach the incident or other arrangements have been made to leave the area.
13. If there is an outside rider and a volunteer firefighter requesting to ride, the volunteer firefighter always takes priority.
14. Riders are allowed to ride between the hours of 07:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. It shall be at the discretion of the Station Officer to deviate from these designated ride along times.

#### 4. Meals and Snacks:

- Pack and bring all your meals that your shift ride along will encompass; including snacks.
- Water is available at the station and use of the kitchen including the refrigerator, microwave, etc.
- You will be able to eat with the firefighters in the dayroom.



# LOVELAND FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

## Ride-Along Confidentiality Agreement & Release of Liability Form

I am a:

- Board Member
- Family Member
- Applicant for Employment
- Applicant for the Volunteer Program
- Community Member
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Appropriate attire must be worn. Clothing must be clean and in good condition. The Fire Authority may cancel the ride based on your appearance, attitude or conduct. You must follow the Fire Authority's safety rules. If you do not follow the safety rules, the ride may be terminated and you may not be permitted to ride in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle in the future.

### **NOTICE OF INHERENTLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY**

RIDING IN A FIRE AUTHORITY APPARATUS OR VEHICLE AND/OR ACCOMPANYING FIRE AUTHORITY PERSONNEL IS AN INHERENTLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY THAT CAN RESULT IN EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS AND MAY RESULT IN SEVERE PERMANENT INJURY OR DEATH.

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** I, individually and on behalf of my family members, heirs and assigns, having read and thoroughly understood the above NOTICE OF INHERENTLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY, acknowledge that riding in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle and/or accompanying Fire Authority personnel is an inherently dangerous activity that can result in severe permanent injury or death, and knowingly assume any and all risks associated with or arising from riding in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle and/or accompanying Fire Authority personnel.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY:** I, individually and on behalf of my family members, heirs and assigns, release, waive and discharge the Fire Authority and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents and representatives from any and all liability, causes of action under any theory of law or equity, claims and demands, damages, costs, expenses and compensation, arising from or relating to any injury or damages to person or property incurred as a result of riding in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle and/or accompanying Fire Authority personnel. I understand the Fire Authority's insurance does not cover any aspect of my riding in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle and/or accompanying Fire Authority personnel, and I expressly assume all responsibility for securing appropriate insurance coverage.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** I understand the Fire Authority provides private and confidential services to patients and that I am a crucial step in respecting the privacy rights of these patients. I understand it may be necessary, in the rendering of Fire Authority services, that patients provide confidential personal

information, that such information may exist in a variety of forms, including electronic, oral, written or photographic formats, and that all such information is strictly confidential and protected from improper use and disclosure by federal and state laws. I understand that while riding on any Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle or accompanying Fire Authority personnel, I may receive, come in contact with, observe, hear or otherwise learn of confidential personal information of one or more individuals. I agree to comply with the Fire Authority's confidentiality and security policies and procedures, and I will not disclose the confidential personal information to anyone.

**INDEMNIFICATION:** I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Fire Authority and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents and representatives from and against any loss, liability, damage, claim, cost or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses) of any kind or nature whatsoever resulting from riding in a Fire Authority apparatus or vehicle and/or accompanying Fire Authority personnel. I agree the Fire Authority has sole discretion in selecting legal counsel even though I am solely responsible for paying the fees and costs.

**GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY:** Nothing herein limit the privileges and protections afforded the Fire Authority and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, and representatives under federal and state constitutional, statutory or common law, including but not limited to the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, C.R.S. § 24-10-101, *et seq.*

**ADDITIONAL TERMS:** Colorado law governs this document. This document states the entire agreement between the Fire Authority and me, and there are no other oral or written agreements or understandings. This document may only be amended by another document signed by the Fire Authority and me. If any provision is held invalid or unenforceable, all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect. This document shall inure to the benefit of the Fire Authority and be binding on me, and my legal representatives, heirs and assigns. This document shall not confer rights on any person or entity who has not signed this document. In any dispute, the prevailing party shall be awarded its/his/her reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, including any attorneys' fees, costs and expenses incurred in collecting upon any judgment, order or award. This document may be signed in several counterparts and by facsimile or electronic pdf, each of which shall constitute an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**I have read this *Ride-Along Confidentiality Agreement & Release of Liability Form*, and understand what this document means. By signing my name below, I hereby voluntarily accept the terms stated in this form.**

**NOTICE**

You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the ride-along.

By initialing here, I certify that I am 18 years of age or older: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name