

	LFRA RIDE-ALONG GUIDELINE		2012revB
	AUTHORED BY: BC Rick Davis		EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/01/2017
	APPROVED BY: <i>Mark Miller</i>		REVISION DATE: 05/01/2020

Procedure

It shall be the responsibility of all Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (LFRA) personnel involved in the scheduling and supervision of riders to follow this guideline.

The goal of the Ride-Along program is to acquaint any interested citizens or fellow firefighters with the day-to-day operations of LFRA. However, due to the associated dangers, this program must be viewed as a privilege and any individual interested in riding with LFRA must complete the application and sign the ride-along release form in Appendix A prior to riding with any company or the battalion chief.

Application process:

- Completion of the *Ride-Along Release Agreement* and the *Ride-Along Request Application*.
- The completed forms will be submitted to the LFRA Community Safety Division. This can be done in person, through the U.S. Mail or electronically at bonnie.wright@lfra.org.
- The above documents must be submitted at least one (1) week prior to the desired ride-along date.
- Applicants shall be limited to four (4) rides per calendar year unless otherwise approved by the fire chief or division chief of Operations.

Rules for the Ride-Along:

The company officer and/or shift battalion chief is responsible for briefing the rider prior to the start of the actual ride-along, including the associated risks.

- Riders must be a minimum of 18 years of age by the date of the ride unless otherwise approved by the fire chief.
- Firefighters are not allowed to wear their duty uniforms unless specifically approved by the fire chief.
- Riders shall wear a navy or dark blue-collared shirt, trousers or jeans. Riders will not be allowed on LFRA apparatus if their clothing is tattered, faded, ripped or worn hanging low. The

appearance of the rider is a direct reflection on all members of LFRA and the rider will present a positive public appearance.

- Shorts, t-shirts and open-toed shoes are not allowed.
- Appropriate cold weather clothing is the responsibility of the rider.
- LFRA will provide an identifying vest and hardhat to be worn while riding the apparatus. The vest must be worn at all times when in public.
- Meals and snacks: it is the responsibility of the rider to provide both. The crew may invite the rider to eat the evening meal with them, but the rider should be prepared to provide their own food.
- Water is available in each fire station and the rider may place their lunch in the refrigerator and use the microwave.
- The ride-along may be terminated at any time and for any reason by the company officer or any chief officer.
- The rider will follow the directions, instructions and orders of LFRA personnel. Failure to do so will result in immediate termination of the ride.
- The rider shall not participate in any dangerous or risk-taking actions and while riding the apparatus the seat belt will be worn at all times. **The rider is allowed to respond emergent or Code 3, but they must remain in their designated seat until direction is received from the officer.**
- Riders must maintain a high state of awareness at all times while on the scene of an emergency, at a training exercise or with the crew in public during non-emergency situations. This includes being aware of moving traffic, charged hose lines, loud noises, firefighters carrying tools, unstable footing, slippery conditions, uncooperative and/or combative citizens, etc.
- The company officer and/or battalion chief may direct the rider to remain behind in the fire station based on Dispatch information that indicates a heightened risk to the rider.
- If the apparatus is out of the fire station and a dangerous situation is encountered, it is the responsibility of the company officer and/or battalion chief to ensure the safety of the rider. This may include dropping the rider off in a safe location, having them relocate to a LFRA staff vehicle or placing them in the care of a law enforcement officer.
- Riders will not be allowed to enter a wildland fire situation that potentially may result in the need for a shelter deployment.
- Riders will not offer any comments, suggestions or instructions to patients, citizens involved in an incident or any member of the public.
- Any questions regarding an incident, fire safety visit, training or LFRA operation will be directed to the supervising company officer.
- Riders may be exposed to the identity of patients and other individuals while at the scene of an emergency. Riders may also be exposed to confidential and privileged information and at NO TIME will this information be shared with anyone or on social media including, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat and any other relevant social media websites. Failure to follow this rule may result in an immediate termination of the ride and the individual will be denied any future ride requests.

- It is absolutely forbidden to take a photo or video of any patient or person involved in an emergency. Failure to follow this rule may result in an immediate termination of the ride and the individual will be denied any future ride requests.
- Reserve firefighters from the Canyon Battalion will take priority over citizen riders.
- The rides shall occur between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. An exception may be granted to visiting firefighters that are spending the night in a fire station.

Revision History

04/23/2017: Updated the old G.O. 10.1 to the LFRA approved Guideline format. Sentences re-worded for syntax; changed language from Station Officer to company officer and/or battalion chief; added language regarding wildland fire situations and consequences for divulging patient names and/or confidential information; incorporated attorney approved Ride-Along Confidentiality Agreement & Release of Liability Form.

References

No references cited.



LOVELAND FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

Ride-Along Confidentiality Agreement and Release of Liability Form

I am a:

- ☐ Board Member ☐ Family Member ☐ Applicant for Employment
☐ Community Member ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Desired Station: 1 2 3 5 6 (Please circle one)

Date Requested:

Time Requested:

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 MAY 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 limits 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 unless an exception has been granted by the Fire Chief or a Division Chief

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

Date: _____

Signature

Print Name

LFRA USE ONLY FOR RIDE ALONG EXCEPTIONS

☐ Under 18 years old ☐ More than four times per calendar year

The signature of the fire chief or a division chief is required to grant the above exceptions to this guideline.

Name/Rank

Signature