

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 5 – General

Section 501 – Miscellaneous

501.14 – Observers

This policy outlines the requirements for members of the public who wish to ride-along on SFD apparatus as an observer. The conditions below must be met prior to participating as an Observer:

- Be provided and read a copy of policy 501.14 – Observers.
- Complete SFD Form, ADM025 – Observer Agreement Form.
- Have no felony record.
- Be at least 16 years of age.

Any deviation to the above requirements must be approved by the Fire Chief. Observers must schedule dates and times with either the SFD Training Officer, or the Shift Commander that will be working on the date they wish to observe.

Priority for scheduling shall be granted to SFD Recruits, Paramedic Students, EMT Students, Dispatch/Police Personnel, Neighboring Volunteers, and then members of the general public, in that order. Observers who are not part of an EMT or Paramedic program will be limited to 12 shifts per year with only 2 consecutive shifts per month.

All SFD Personnel with an Observer assigned to their unit shall be responsible for monitoring the behavior of the Observer. Observers will adhere to all SFD safety policies. Observers shall obey directives given to them by the SFD Personnel.

Observers shall remain quiet, attentive, and professional when encountering the public. Observers are encouraged to ask questions, however, such questions shall be held until the conclusion of patient care activities. Observers are encouraged to take part in shift activities, such as checking the units, cleaning, meals, etc.

Observers must present a neat, clean, well-groomed appearance. Facial hair (groomed mustaches are acceptable), ear rings, or other visible piercings are not allowed. Any hair below the collar line shall be tied back in a ponytail.

The following items are required wear for the Observer:

- Approved agency uniforms.
- Dress Slacks.
- Dress shirt (collared).
- Dress shoes, or work boots.
- SFD Observer or agency ID card.
- Suitable wear for inclement weather conditions.

Observers shall not actively engage in firefighting operations. If riding on a squad, Observers shall don appropriate personal protective equipment as SFD Personnel do in accordance with the SFD Exposure Control Program. EMT and Paramedic Students observing hours are from 0800 to 2200. Observers who are not part of an EMT or Paramedic program will observe from 0800 through 2000.