

HOBBS FIRE DEPARTMENT

RIDE-ALONG RULES OF CONDUCT

- Emergency service observation hours shall be limited to 0800 – 2000 hours
- Under “NO” circumstances shall ride-along/observer(s) stay overnight at Fire stations.
- Ride-Along/Observer(s) are **restricted** from entering any sleeping quarters at the Fire stations.
- Ride-Along/observer(s) are limited to the following Ride-Along(s) per year:
 - ✓ General Ride-Along/Observer – One (1) every six (6) months
 - ✓ Emergency Service Personnel – Four (4) per year
 - ✓ Collegiate Mentoring Programs – Four (4) per year
 - ✓ EMS Students – Evaluated according to student needs and requirements.

I. Dress and Appearance

- a. Ride-Along/Observer shall be neat and clean in appearance. Their personal hygiene and grooming must be acceptable to the shift and station commander. While participating in the Ride-Along Program, the Rider is, in effect, representing the Fire Department.
- b. Ride-Along/Observer shall wear suitable attire. Dark pants and light plain shirts are recommended (no jeans). No writing or artwork is allowed on clothing, except small brand logos are acceptable. The following clothing items are prohibited: open toe shoes, sandals, high heels, shorts, tank tops, garments with offensive messages, garments that are excessively loose, and/or excessive loose jewelry with the exception of a ring and a watch.
- c. Ride-Along/Observer must wear flat, closed-toe shoes (steel-toed is strongly recommended).
- d. Jacket: Dark solid color recommended.
- e. Ride-Alongs/Observer from agencies outside of Hobbs may wear their agency uniform with prior approval. Student ride-alongs may wear their class uniforms with prior approval.
- f. Ride-Along/Observer shall wear a name badge or observer vest provided by the Department, or other appropriate badge provided by the media, school, or hospital, etc.
- g. Hair: Long hair shall be pulled back and tied so as not to interfere with activities.

II. Rules of Conduct

- a. Ride-Along/Observer(s) are required to conduct themselves in a manner that will not interfere with Fire Department operations.
- b. Ride-Along/Observer(s) are expected to act in a manner which reflects a positive image on the Fire Department.
- c. Ride-Along/Observer(s) are encouraged to ask questions, please do so at appropriate times.
- d. No firearms or other weapons may be brought onto department property or carried during the ride along.
- e. No alcoholic beverages or drugs are to be brought onto city or department property nor consumed prior to the ride. The smell of alcoholic beverages or marijuana, etc., on the breath will prohibit you from participating.
- f. Participants shall wear a seat belt as per State Law and department policy.
- g. Participants shall carry a valid Driver’s license or identification with them during the ride along at all times.
- h. At no time will observers be permitted to take pictures, use a video camera or any other audio-visual recording device while on the scene of an incident. Requests for media ride-alongs will be dealt with separately through the Fire Chief.
- i. Ride-Along/Observer(s) will treat private health information as strictly confidential. Disclosure of private health information outside of the organizations who are working with the patient is strictly forbidden. No response documents or copies, on which individually identifiable information such as name, address, SSN, etc shall be removed, disclosed or transmitted off site.
- j. Use of tobacco products is not permitted in any station or vehicle.

Ride-Along Participants will be responsible for bringing his/her own meals or can make arrangements to buy-in for meals with officer in charge.