



BALTIMORE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT OBSERVATIONAL RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM RULES AND PROHIBITIONS

PARTICIPATION IN THE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM IS A PRIVILEGE. COMPLIANCE TO THESE PROGRAM RULES ARE IMPERATIVE, AS THEY ARE INTENDED TO MAKE THE PROGRAM SAFE AND REWARDING FOR ALL INVOLVED.

Program Rules

- A. Participants are expected to promptly report for the scheduled ride-along and report to the company commander or EMS Supervisor. When a company commander is not present, station personnel are expected to notify the company commander of the arrival and departure time of the participant.
- B. Participants must be dressed in a manner that reflects the Department's image of professionalism.
 - a. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are required.
 - b. Extremes in dress such as tube/tank tops, bare backs/midriffs, shorts, short skirts, bare feet, sandals, or clothing with obscene language or offensive references are not permitted.
 - c. Religious attire that does not create a safety hazard shall be permitted.
- C. Participants must wear a seat belt at all times while in Department vehicles.
- D. Fire Department personnel have the authority to return a participant to the station for inappropriate behavior.
 - a. Anytime a ride-along is terminated or canceled by a field officer, the Safety Division shall be emailed via fire-safety@baltimorecountymd.gov by the officer making the decision with the reason for cancellation/termination before the end of the shift.
- E. Participants may self-terminate their ride-along session at any time and will be transported to the station at the next convenient opportunity.
- F. Participants must receive HIPAA training prior to a ride-along, or provide reasonable proof of their familiarity with confidentiality statutes and requirements, and remains liable for HIPAA compliance.

Participant Prohibitions

- A. Taking part in or interfering with Fire Department or EMS Operations, regardless of the situation.
NOTE: Participants are encouraged to ask questions concerning an incident only after clearing the scene.



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- B. Carrying weapons or look-alike weapons of any kind.
- C. Handling any Department equipment, except in an emergency.
- D. Being intoxicated or under the influence of any illegal or controlled substance.
- E. Use, including but not limited to smoking and vaping, or carrying of tobacco products is prohibited on county property and all county vehicles.
- F. Carrying or use of medicinal marijuana is prohibited on county property and all county vehicles.
- G. Posting or live streaming information concerning departmental activities on social media or internet sites, as this information may be confidential and sensitive.
- H. Using any electronic device to conduct audio or visual recordings or to take photographic images during a ride-along session. Participants will immediately turn off or remove any electronic device upon request. Failure to do so will result in termination of the ride-along session.
- I. Revealing the names or any other identifying information of patients, victims or witnesses, unless required in accordance with law.
- J. Receiving any compensation for participation in the Ride-Along Program, unless as an approved and recognized scholarship, grant, or regular financial assistance.