

HAEMS Ride-Along Policy and Procedure

PURPOSE:

For community members to learn more about Harleysville Area Emergency Medical Service and the responsibilities involved in providing emergency medical care to the public, as well as the ever-present need of maintaining and improving relations with the community.

It is hoped that through direct involvement with the Ride-Along Program, the participant (“Rider”) will gain an insight into issues encountered in emergency service operations. It is further hoped that when the Rider returns to the community, he or she will have a better understanding of the Harleysville Areas EMS’s services and share with others insights and experiences gained from this direct participation.

POLICY:

The Ride-Along Program is intended for members of the community seeking an understanding of emergency medical operations, students of EMS and or fire academies or those in EMT/Paramedic programs, interested members of the Harleysville Area community and other observers with related purposes.

PROCEDURE:

1. DRESS AND APPEARANCE

- a. Riders shall be neat and clean in appearance. While participating in the Ride-Along Program, the Rider is, in effect, representing the Harleysville Area EMS organization.
- b. Riders shall wear suitable attire. Dark blue or black pants (sorry no jeans) and a plain shirt are recommended. No writing or artwork is allowed on clothing, except small brand logos are acceptable. Riders must wear flat, closed-toe shoes. Boots are recommended.
- c. Riders shall wear an observer badge provided by the Department, or other appropriate badge provided by the media, school, or county, etc.
- d. Riders shall wear no loose fitting jewelry that could cause a hazard to the Rider.

2. RIDE-ALONG HOURS

- a. Riders are generally to be limited to the hours between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., unless authorized by the Chief of the Department.

3. INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES

- a. No person shall be permitted to participate in the Ride-Along Program unless he or she first has submitted a signed copy of both of the following Department forms: (1) Request for Ride-Along; and (2) Agreement Assuming Risk of Injury or Damage, Waiver and Release of Claims and Indemnity Agreement. The forms shall have been approved and in the possession of the company officer prior to any participation in the Ride-Along Program. Refusal to complete these forms or false statements of any nature made on these forms will disqualify the applicant from participating in the Ride-Along Program. The crew chief of the ambulance may deny the request for a Ride-Along on his ambulance.
- b. The rider must be 18 years of age or older or have proper consent from their legal guardian.
- c. Cameras and recording devices may only be used when authorized by the ambulance crew chief and or department officer.
- d. The Rider must not leave the immediate vicinity of the ambulance in which they are riding unless the crew chief or department officer has given permission to do so.
- e. The Rider must obey the orders and instructions given by the organization's personnel to whom he or she is assigned.
- f. Riders are not permitted to respond to Haz-Mat, Hostage, Turnpike (if under 18), or police incidents. During the time of these calls, the Rider is not permitted to be in the ambulance building unsupervised. If the Rider is already in the ambulance, (i.e. returning from another call) then they are to remain in the ambulance at all times during the duration of the call.
- g. The Rider will provide his or her own transportation to and from the ambulance station.
- h. The ambulance crew chief, department officer or the Rider may terminate the Ride-Along at any time.
- i. It shall be understood by the Rider that participation in the Ride-Along Program is a privilege and that the basic premise of the Program is to learn about the functions of the Harleysville Area EMS organization and the Emergency Medical Service ("EMS") in general.
- j. The Rider agrees not to discuss names or persons involved in medical cases or other incidents. Each Rider will be considered a confidant of the Harleysville Area EMS organization and it is essential that all matters pertaining to recipients of medical or related service by the Harleysville Area EMS organization and any and all personal information including names, medical history and statements gathered remain confidential in compliance with federal HIPAA regulations.
- k. The Rider must carry a valid form of identification.