

PURPOSE:

To facilitate the return of personnel to active duty service after injury and/or illness both on and off duty.

SCOPE:

These procedures shall apply to all volunteer and paid personnel, no matter what classification, rank, or office a member or employee may hold.

GENERAL:

The following procedures will be followed prior to an individual returning to full active duty:

A. Duty and Non-Duty Related Injury or Illness

1. The individual seeking reinstatement to active duty must compete and sign a Release of Medical Records, see Schedule A;
2. The Release of Medical Records shall be forwarded to the treating physician, see Schedule B, along with a copy of Essential Firefighting Functions, see Schedule C;
3. Upon receipt of the physicians response, it shall be reviewed by the Fire District Administrator or designee to determine in the member shall return to full active duty or if an examination is needed by the District's physician and, if so, the member shall complete and sign a Release of Medical Records, see Schedule D, which shall be forwarded to the District's physician, see Schedule E, along with a copy of the Essential Fire Fighting Functions, see Schedule C;
4. Once the District's physician report is received, The Fire District Administrator or designee shall inform the member of their findings and recommendation(s); and
5. The Fire District Administrator or designee shall notify the Fire Chief and Safety Officer.

Legal References:

1st Reading: April 26, 2023

Effective Date: May 24, 2023

2nd Reading: May 24, 2023

Revision Date:

Board of Fire Commissioners

Riverside Fire District No.1

P.O. Box 458 - Riverside, NJ 08075

Schedule A

RELEASE OF MEDICAL RECORDS

DATED: _____

TO: _____

RE: _____

(Name of Patient)

(Address)

You are hereby requested and authorized to disclose, make available and furnish to the Board of Fire Commissioners whose name and address are:

Board of Fire Commissioners
Riverside Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 458
Riverside, New Jersey 08075

Or the Board's authorized representative and or physician all information, records, x-rays, reports or copies thereof relating to my examination, consultation, confinement or treatment and to permit them to inspect and make copies or abstracts thereof. You are also authorized to send any psychiatric and drug and/or alcohol use information, if applicable.

(Signature of Patient)

Board of Fire Commissioners

Riverside Fire District No.1

P.O. Box 458 - Riverside, NJ 08075

Schedule B

Date: _____

Dear Dr. _____,

It is the understanding of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 1, Township of Riverside, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that you are presently treating or have treated

_____ for _____. Mr./Ms.

_____ is a volunteer firefighter within the District. Mr./Ms.

_____ is presently on inactive duty as a result of the aforementioned condition and desires to return to active status. Prior to doing so, it is necessary for the Board to obtain a

Release from you as Mr./Ms. _____'s treating physician stating that

he/she is capable of performing firefighting / fire police (circle which apply) duties. To assist you in this regard, enclosed is a description of the duties normally performed by an active firefighter / fire police officer.

Also enclosed is a Release of Medical Records duly executed by Mr./Ms.

_____.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

Donald E. Nesbitt, Fire District Administrator
Board of Fire Commissioners
Riverside Fire District No. 1

Board of Fire Commissioners

Riverside Fire District No.1

P.O. Box 458 - Riverside, NJ 08075

Schedule C

ESSENTIAL FIREFIGHTING FUNCTIONS

The medical requirements in the standard were based on in depth consideration of essential firefighting functions. These essential functions are what firefighters are expected to perform at emergency incidents and are derived from the performance objectives stated in NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications.

Such essential functions are performed in an affected by the following environmental factors:

- (1) Operate both as a member of a team and independently at incidence of uncertain duration;
- (2) Spend extensive time outside, exposed to the elements;
- (3) Tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature while performing duties. Must perform physically demanding work in the hot (up to 400°F), humid (up to 100%) atmospheres while wearing equipment that significantly impairs body cooling mechanisms;
- (4) Experience frequent transition from hot to cold and from humid to dry atmospheres;
- (5) Work in wet, icy or muddy areas;
- (6) Perform a variety of tasks on slippery, hazardous surfaces such as rooftops or from ladders;
- (7) Work in areas where sustaining traumatic or thermal injuries is possible;
- (8) Face exposure to carcinogenic dust such as asbestos, toxic substances such as hydrogen cyanide, acids, carbon monoxide, or organic solvents either through inhalation or skin contact;
- (9) Face exposure to infectious agents, such as Hepatitis B or HIV;
- (10) Wear personal protective equipment that weighs approximately 50 pounds while performing firefighting tasks;
- (11) Perform physically demeaning work while wearing positive pressure breathing equipment with 1.5 inches of water column resistance to exhalation at a flow of 40 liters per minute;
- (12) Perform complex tasks during life threatening emergencies;
- (13) Work for long periods of time, requiring sustained physical activity and intense concentration;
- (14) Face life or death decisions during emergency conditions;

- (15) Be exposed to grotesque sights and smells associated with major trauma and burn victims;
- (16) Make rapid transitions from rest to near maximum exertion without warm up;
- (17) Operate in environments of high noise, poor visibility, limited mobility, at heights and in enclosed or confined spaces;
- (18) Use manual and power tools in the performances of duties; and
- (19) Rely on senses of sight, hearing, smell and touch to help determine the nature of the emergency, maintain personal safety and make critical decisions in a confused, chaotic and potentially life-threatening environment throughout the duration of the operation.

FIREFIGHTER

- (1) Unreels, lays out, operates and directs hose lines discharging water or other fire suppression agents;
- (2) Enter structures to locate and extinguish most of fire. Climbs ladders carrying heavy hoses or portable extinguishers. Makes forced entries by prying open or breaking doors, windows, etc.;
- (3) Makes forced entry into burning or damaged aircraft and ships to rescue passengers and crew, and to extinguish the fire. Uses hand and power tools as necessary. Heavy physical exertion is required as well as speed and agility;
- (4) Ventilates burning structures by opening doors, windows or other existing openings. Sometimes cuts new openings in roof and walls;
- (5) Performs, rescue operations including climbing ladders, forcible entry, moving obstructions and moving through hot, smoke-filled structures to locate an assist or carry victims out of the danger areas;
- (6) Performs salvage and overhaul operations;
- (7) Maintains equipment; and
- (8) Attends daily drill and or training sessions.

FIREFIGHTER (DRIVER/OPERATOR)

- (1) Must know all the duties of the fire fighter; and
- (2) Drives and performs light maintenance on mobile firefighting equipment. Must be able to drive safely, know the best routes, including alternates to fire locations, place truck in proper position to fight particular kind of fires under varying conditions, know how to operate the equipment, such as pumps, turrets, etc., and possess a knowledge of basic hydraulics to determine amount of pressure to pump accordingly to the number and size of lines being serviced and to take full advantage of the amount of water are available.

FIRE POLICE OFFICER

- (1) Traffic control - regulate traffic at emergency scenes.
- (2) Crowd control - protect the general public at the scene of a fire or other emergency.

- (3) Keep firefighting areas clear for firefighting purposes.
- (4) Scene security - protect the equipment of the fire company.
- (5) Assist and cooperate with police agencies.
- (6) Protect the property at the scene of a fire or other emergency.
- (7) Preserve the crime scene.
- (8) Carry out the orders of the Chief or Officer in Charge.
- (9) Maintains traffic and crowd control equipment.
- (10) Attends drills and training sessions.

Board of Fire Commissioners

Riverside Fire District No.1

P.O. Box 458 - Riverside, NJ 08075

Schedule D

RELEASE OF MEDICAL RECORDS

DATED: _____

TO: _____

RE: _____

(Name of Patient)

(Address)

You are hereby requested and authorized to disclose, make available and furnish to the Board of Fire Commissioners' physician whose name and address are:

all information, records, x-rays, reports or copies thereof relating to my examination, consultation, confinement or treatment and to permit him/her to inspect and make copies or abstracts thereof. You are also authorized to send any psychiatric and drug and/or alcohol use information, if applicable.

(Signature of Patient)