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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** |
| **SOG Number:** |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** |

**Code of Ethics**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To preserve the public trust, a National Firefighter Code of Ethics was developed by a group of fire service leaders that calls on individual firefighters to pledge their support for maintaining the highest level of professionalism and behavior. Signing this symbolizes your personnel commitment.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

[www.firefighterbehavior.com](http://www.firefighterbehavior.com) 1-12-2012

Fire Fighter Code of Ethics

I understand that I have the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that reflects proper ethical behavior and integrity. In so doing, I will help foster a continuing positive public perception of the fire service. Therefore, I pledge the following...

* Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general.
* Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions.
* Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.
* Avoid situations that would adversely affect the credibility or public perception of the fire service profession.
* Be truthful and honest at all times and report instances of cheating or other dishonest acts that compromise the integrity of the fire service.
* Conduct my personal affairs in a manner that does not improperly influence the performance of my duties, or bring discredit to my organization.
* Be respectful and conscious of each member's safety and welfare.
* Recognize that I serve in a position of public: trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, including uniforms, facilities, vehicles and equipment and that these arc protected from misuse and theft.
* Exercise professionalism, competence, respect and loyalty in the performance of my duties and use information, confidential or otherwise, gained oy virtue of my position, only to benefit those that I entrusted to serve.
* Avoid financial investments, outside employment, outside business interests or activities that conflict with or arc enhanced by my official position or nave the potential to create the perception of impropriety
* Never propose or accept personal rewards, social privileges, benefits, advancement, honors or gifts tht1t may create a conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof.
* Never engage in activities involving alcohol or other substance use or abuse that can impair my mental state or the performance of my duties and compromise safety.
* Never discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual preference, medical condition or handicap.
* Never harass, intimidate or threaten follow members of the service or the public and stop or report the actions of other firefighters who engage in such behaviors.
* Responsibly use social networking, electronic communications, or other media technology opportunities in a manner that does not discredit, dishonor or embarrass my organization, the fire service and the public. I also understand that failure to resolve or report inappropriate use of this media equates to condoning this behavior.

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