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

**Firearms & Weapons**

***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.***

**Policy:**

It is forbidden for any firefighter or officer of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to carry a firearm and/or other dangerous weapons on their person while in the engine room, parking areas or interior of the station.

**Purpose:**

To establish rules and regulation regarding firearms and/or dangerous weapons in and around the fire station and at fire/emergency scenes.

**Scope:**

All organization personnel.

**Procedure:**

The term **Dangerous Weapon** shall include, but not limited to:

* Air, C02, or other type of pellet gun
* Bow and arrow/crossbow
* Blackjack, trungeon, brass knuckles or any similar device
* Switchblade, stiletto, or any other type of knife with a spring release device in which the blade is released from the handle with blade length greater than 2 inches
* Any type of knife with an edge portion of the blade exceeding 6 inches

The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

* On duty police or military personnel.
* Off duty police personnel who are under the direction of their police departmental procedure requiring them to carry a weapon when off duty. The fire chief reserves the right to confirm this policy with the officer's employer.
* Any member who receives written permission for the fire chief to carry a firearm and/or dangerous weapon onto fire company property.
* Fire investigators that have appropriate “police powers” and departmental authority to be armed.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL ANY FIREFIGHTER GO INTO SERVICE WHILE CARRYING A FIREARM AND/OR DANGEROUS WEAPON ON THEIR PERSON, WITH THE NOTED EXCEPTION OF A MEMBER REQUIRED TO HAVE A SERVICE WEAPON ON THEIR PERSON (FIRE INVESTIGATOR)**

It is the responsibility of the firefighter to secure his/her weapon in a safe manner as prescribed by his/her employer and/or common sense.

The first offense of the above procedure shall be a verbal and written warning, and subsequent offenses shall result in suspension or expulsion from the company.

***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:**

King of Prussia (PA) Volunteer Fire Company SOG KP-1.0023 Firearms & Weapons

VFIS Communique

West Redding (CT) VFD – GOG 2-A-207 Developed/Revised/Reviewed by VFIS ETC