



OGLETHORPE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Obedience to Orders

SECTION/TOPIC: Administration

ISSUE DATE: January 11, 2021

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 SCOPE

- 1.1 This guideline is applicable to all firefighters responding to fires or involved in fire drills.

2.0 PURPOSE:

- 2.1 Personnel shall read and become familiar with the department's Standard Operating Guidelines and Procedures.
- 2.2 No plea of ignorance of SOG/SOP's will be accepted as an excuse for any violation.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 Personnel shall promptly and willingly respond to the lawful orders of superior officers or acting officers.
 - 3.1.1 Refusal to obey a lawful order shall constitute insubordination.
 - 3.1.2 Obvious disrespect for or disruption of a fire officer's order likewise shall be deemed as insubordination.
- 3.2 Personnel shall abide by federal and state law, local ordinances and rules, the department's SOG/SOP's, and County policy.
 - 3.2.1 Members shall not be required to obey orders that are illegal or in conflict with the department's SOG/SOP's.
- 3.3 Personnel shall not publicly criticize or comment derogatorily to anyone about instructions or orders received from a superior officer.
- 3.4 Supervisors and acting supervisors shall refrain from exceeding their authority in giving orders.
 - 3.4.1 The wrongful, or injurious, exercise of authority is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
- 3.5 Should a member receive an order that conflicts with a previous order, the member shall notify the officer who issued the conflicting order and shall be governed by the officer's subsequent instructions.
- 3.6 Any member who is given an order he believes to be unjust, improper, or contrary to a general order, SOG/SOP, or a federal or state law, or county policy, should respectfully decline to obey the order and shall state the reason for doing so.
 - 3.6.1 The member shall request that the supervisor of the person issuing the order be contacted for instructions of grievance, if the person issuing the order does not rescind or alter the original order.