

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, & Guidelines



AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

The rules, policies, and guidelines contained in this manual constitute a portion of all rules, policies, and guidelines utilized by Escambia County, Florida. The authority to promulgate such articles is given by the State of Florida and the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners.

Authorization – The Escambia County Fire Chief establishes department rules, policies, and guidelines under the authority granted him/her by the County Administrator. The right to amend, rescind, or add to these rules, policies, and guidelines is reserved to the processes outlined in this manual.

Purpose - This manual is intended to define the current rules, policies, and guidelines of ECFR and define the responsibilities and expected actions its staff, officers, and firefighters.

Scope - All orders and directives issued pursuant to this manual shall be recognized as a portion of this manual and shall have equal force and effect.

Validity - The legal validity of any part of this manual may be determined by formal opinion of the county's legal counsel upon request by the County Fire Chief. Any opinion of the County's legal counsel or any decision of any court that invalidates any part of this manual shall not affect any other part thereof. If any part of this document is in conflict with higher authority, then such higher authority shall prevail.

Rules, policies, and guidelines are a set of organization directives that establish a standard course of action for the department to increase the effectiveness and safety of its personnel. It is difficult to operate consistently and be effective without such standard policies and guidelines, particularly on the scene of a complex emergency. Standard policies and guidelines allow the department to develop a course of attack before the emergency. This is one of the most important elements of pre-emergency planning.

This organization is committed to using standard operating guidelines on all emergency incidents. In addition, applying guidelines and standard processes to everyday routine operations develops a set of regular habits for the individual and for the department.

Regular use of standard policies and guidelines is essential to providing effective fire-rescue services. As such, this manual serves as a training and educational tool for new recruits, and as a reference resource for veteran firefighters.