

# Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

## **RULE & REGULATION**

No. 122



## **Chain of Command**

Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Revision Date: January 30, 2018

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Forms:

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren L. Stevens', is written over the printed name.

### **PURPOSE**

To establish a well-defined chain of command within the organizational structure of the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management that encompasses all levels of personnel.

### **SCOPE**

This regulation pertains to all Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management personnel (operational and administrative).

### **I. POLICY**

- A. In order for any organization to run smoothly, there must be a well-defined chain of command, and it must be adhered to as closely as possible.
- B. An organizational chart has been provided in Rule and Regulation 102 which clearly depicts each position in relation to the established chain of command.
- C. All personnel, when conducting department business, will follow this chain of command. This is not to be interpreted as inhibiting open general dialogue or constructive sharing of ideas between differing ranks or to limit the effectiveness of direct communication on projects. Some individuals within the department have been given special assignments in addition to their normal duties. At times it may become necessary for an employee to have direct contact with a member of management without following the direct chain of command. All supervisory staff will be made aware of these special situations to avoid any potential conflict.
- D. There will be times when more than one order will be given at a time. Under no circumstances is any order to be ignored or will the employee do as he/she sees fit. This is to be especially adhered to when operating at the scene of an incident.
- E. If given an order by an appropriate officer, and either before or during the completion of that order, you are instructed to carry out a second order by a different officer; the employee will inform the second officer of the conflict. Until such time as the conflict is resolved, the original command given will be followed. The only circumstances which allow the employee to deviate from this section are when his/her safety or the safety of others is jeopardized.

**Desire to Serve**

**Ability to Perform**

**Courage to Act**

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- F. Obviously, the chief of the department is the one person who has ultimate responsibility for the actions of the entire department. However, certain areas of responsibility and authority are delegated to other officers and members within the department.
  
- G. In the absence of the Chief, the Assistant Chief or the next highest ranking officer shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chief.