

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Non-Standard Situation Policy

Objective:

To cover situations where other specific SOGs may not apply.

General Information: The policies and procedures of the Falmouth Fire-EMS Department are intended to apply to most department incidents and operations. However, firefighting and EMS is a complicated and constantly changing activity.

Guidelines:

A. Non-Standard Situations

1. Due to the nature of work experienced in firefighting and EMS operations, no set of policies and procedures will apply to all situations. It is expected that it will be impossible to cover all situations or incidents within this SOG manual.
2. These guidelines were developed and designed to protect not only the customer/patient and the public, but Falmouth Fire-EMS personnel also. The SOGs are not necessarily able to cover all situations, but the policies herein are intended as guidelines of operation for personnel and the department.
3. Other situations may arise that are not covered by the guidelines located in this manual and they will be dealt with as applicable based upon rules of conduct within the department.
4. Failure to comply with any SOGs may result in disciplinary action in accordance with established Falmouth Fire-EMS policies.
5. As an existing member of Falmouth Fire-EMS Department, you are required to review these SOGs and sign an acknowledgement that you understand them. As a new member, these SOGs should be your answers to how we work. It is incumbent upon the management of the team to make sure you understand how we operate to better respond to our "customers'" needs.
6. The SOGs will be published in a binder at each station and posted on the Falmouth Fire-EMS website.

B. Deviation from Established SOG's

1. In situations where it would unreasonable, inappropriate, dangerous, or not feasible to adhere to these guidelines, employees may be excused from compliance. However, except in a serious health or safety emergency, employees are expected to consult with a supervisor before deviating from an SOG.
2. Employees may deviate from these guidelines so long as their conduct is permissible under the laws of the State of Maine.
 - a. In cases where employees deviate from these guidelines, the burden will be upon them to demonstrate the need to deviate from established policy.
 - b. If at all possible it should be the decision of an officer to authorize such guideline deviations. Therefore, all employees should attempt to contact and discuss with their superior the deviation prior to conducting it. The exception would be of course in the case where serious loss of life, property or limb may occur should the employee not act quickly.
 - c. Any deviations from these guidelines shall be documented and submitted in writing to the Assistant Chief or Department Chief no later than forty-eight hours (48) after the incident. This report shall include the circumstances surrounding the incident and the reasons for deviation from the guidelines.
 - d. Deviation from SOGs with an appropriate justification will be addressed through appropriate disciplinary action.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.