1. **PURPOSE**

To allow an individual to observe our fire and emergency service operations.

1. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all observers riding along with any district member.

1. **POLICY**

It is the policy of the RVFD to follow the guidelines of the of the “Waiver for Ride-a-long” form.

1. **GUIDELINES**

A. This guideline establishes the procedures for Rincon Valley’s “ride-along program” with duty crews for emergency and non-emergency activities. Riders will be asked to review a copy of these “guidelines” and agree to all the stipulations herein. Failure to agree to and abide by any of these terms will result in immediate denial/termination of ride-along privileges.

B. A person wishing to participate in the *Ride-Along Program*, must be a minimum of 18 years old, and complete a Waiver Form. No person shall ride without first completing the Waiver Form and submitting it to the Administration Office.

C. The Captain on duty will coordinate times and dates with the rider. Failure of the rider to arrive at the scheduled time may result in loss of ride-along privileges.

D. Only one (1) rider per station will be scheduled at a time. The *Ride-Along Program* will operate between 0700-1900 hours, seven days a week.

E. Riders will be under the supervision of the Captain at all times; and the ride-along privileges may be suspended or terminated immediately at the Captain’s or Chief’s discretion.

F. Riders shall check in with the assigned Captain immediately upon arriving at the assigned station. Riders shall comply with all directions from Fire District personnel while in the station. If directions are in conflict, the direction from the Captain shall be followed.

G. RVFD reserves the right to deny ride-along privileges to any person whose conduct and/or appearance is or becomes a detriment to the District.

1. Rider Requirements for Clothing

a. Pants (black, navy blue, khaki colored).

i. Skirts or shorts are not permitted.

b. Collared shirts.

c. A hat is recommended as crews frequently operate outdoors for extended periods of time

d. No clothing or hats with advertising or promotional logos will be permitted.

e. Footwear

i. Dark colored heavy shoes or boots

ii. Sneakers, tennis or running shoes are permitted

iii. No sandals, open toe.

2. Rider Requirements for Grooming

a. Hair must be kept clean and groomed

H. Riders are only allowed to observe operations and shall not participate with, or be a working member of, the responding crew(s), except for special situations approved by a supervisor, who will then be responsible for the actions of the rider. However, allowing the rider to participate with the crew does not make the supervisor or the District liable for any harm to the rider.

I. Riders are to be instructed by the Captain in patient confidentiality and are not to discuss details of the patient’s care (or even non-medical personal details) with anyone involved in that patient’s care.

J. Riders must be able to function in such a way as not to encumber or impede the crew’s operations or ability to respond or perform their duties in any way.

K. Responding with the Crew

1. Seat belts must be worn at all time when the vehicle is in motion.

2. The crew will tell you where to sit.

3. Follow the direction of the Captain or designated lead personnel.

4. For auto accidents and non-EMS calls (including fire calls), you must wear

a safety vest and stay in the apparatus until directed otherwise by the Captain or Lead personnel.