

Rules and Regulations, SOP 150
OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS

1. Members shall read and become familiar with the fire department's standard operating procedures and guidelines, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. A plea of ignorance of the rules and/or regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any violation.
2. Members shall promptly and willingly respond to a direct order of a superior and/or acting officer. Refusal to obey a direct order shall constitute insubordination. Obvious disrespect for or disruption of a supervisor's order likewise shall be deemed insubordination. See SOP 105 - Disciplinary Actions.
3. Members shall abide by federal, state and county law, local ordinances and rules, and the fire department's standard operating procedures and guidelines, general orders and rules of conduct. Members shall not be required to obey orders that are illegal or in conflict with the fire department's rules and regulations.
4. Members shall not publicly criticize or comment derogatorily to anyone about instructions or orders received from a superior and/or acting officer.
5. Supervisors and acting supervisors shall refrain from exceeding their authority in giving orders. The wrongful or injurious exercise of authority is prohibited.
6. Every officer, on and off duty, will be held responsible for enforcing the fire department's rules. If a violation comes to an officer's attention, that officer shall immediately notify the member of the violation and take corrective action. Should an officer fail to report a violation of an order of the fire department's rules, that officer shall be equally responsible for the violation.
7. 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.
8. Any member who is given an order he believes to be unjust, improper, or contrary to a general order or rule of the fire department or a federal, state, or county policy should respectfully decline to obey the order and shall state the reason for doing so. The member shall request that the supervisor of the person issuing the order be contacted for instructions if the person issuing the order does not rescind or alter the original order.
9. A member may appeal for relief from orders or instructions that the member believes to be illegal, unjust, or improper. See SOP 110 – Grievance Procedure.