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**SUBJECT:** **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

**POLICY:** Volunteer Firefighters

**PURPOSE:** Define Volunteer Policy

**DEFINITION:** Members who volunteer their time to the District as firefighters, residents, instructors, support personnel, or similar positions that receive no compensation

**SCOPE:** All non-paid members excluding intern members

**PROCEDURE:** It is the policy of the District that it will actively support persons who volunteer their time to further the goals and needs of the District. The District understands that while paid staffing is usually able to address the normal emergency responses and preparations for emergency responses desired by the citizens we serve, volunteers provide critical support during times of unusual emergency need such as structure fires, significant weather events, wildland fires, natural disasters, and similar large incidents.

The District believes that volunteers strengthen our paid crews during normal operations by providing additional emergency staffing allowing the District to better utilize resources and provide better outcomes for normal emergencies. Volunteers also increase crew sizes during daily activities, allowing crews to accomplish more tasks.

Non-response volunteers enable the District to improve public education, community first aid and CPR instruction, smoke detector installations, and other similar activities.

Finally, the District understands that a volunteer program is an excellent use of resources to train and evaluate future paid firefighters. By utilizing their volunteer program, the District is often able to place firefighters on the line who are already trained in and familiar with the District and the services we provide, improving services to our citizens.

The District shall strive to maintain their volunteer its force at the level identified in the Strategic Plan. The program shall follow the guidelines identified in the volunteer job descriptions and the SOG's of the various volunteer programs. The District shall establish reimbursement programs that attempt to reimburse volunteers for specific costs they incur while performing volunteer services for the District.