

OTTO FIRE DISTRICT

FIREARMS POLICY

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all members under the authority of the Otto Fire District ("Fire District") while on duty, when operating on behalf of the Fire District or on premises occupied by the Fire District. It shall be the responsibility of all fire officers to ensure that this Policy is adhered to.

PURPOSE

In order to protect Fire District members from workplace violence, this Policy is designed to implement and administer reasonable measures to ensure that the fire station remains a firearm-free workplace. The purpose of this Policy is to assure member safety and the public's safety on Fire District property and on the scene of all Fire District events, whether owned, leased or controlled.

DESCRIPTION

Prohibited firearms include any form of firearm or explosive restricted under local, state or federal regulation including all firearms, illegal knives or other firearms covered by the law. Weapons include, but are not limited to, visible and concealed firearms, including those for which the owner holds the necessary permits. Weapons can include firearms/guns, knives or swords with a blade longer than four inches, explosive or chemical materials, or any other objects that could be used to harass, intimidate, or injure another member. Legal chemical dispensing devices such as pepper sprays that are sold commercially for personal protection are not covered by this Policy.

POLICY

The Fire District prohibits and will not tolerate any firearms on any Fire District property, apparatus, drill sites, or on the property of any Fire District sponsored or sanctioned events.

This Policy applies to all members, employees, contract members, family members, and visitors on Fire District property, as well as all clients and contractors on Fire District property, whether or not they are licensed to carry a concealed handgun. This Policy shall not apply to law enforcement officers as identified in Penal Law 265.01-e (3)(a)-(h) while functioning in such capacity.

Members are also prohibited from carrying a firearm while in the course and scope of representing the Fire District whether or not they are on Fire District property and regardless of whether the member is licensed to carry a handgun.

This Policy also prohibits firearms at any Fire District sponsored functions including, but not limited to, inspections, community activities, banquets and picnics.

When a member is in possession of a valid carry permit and has a firearm on their person, that firearm shall be removed from the person and secured consistent with the requirements of Penal Law 265.45 prior to entering Fire District property, or the fireground or incident scene. The Fire District shall have no responsibility to provide a means of storage of any firearm.

A member who is uncertain whether an instrument or device is prohibited under this Policy is obligated to request clarification to ensure that the member is not in violation of this Policy. Members will be held responsible for making sure that any potentially covered item you possess is not prohibited by this Policy.

Members who violate this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or removal from the Fire District.

This Policy shall not be construed to create any duty of obligation on the part of the Fire District to take any actions beyond those required of an employer by existing law.

CONTRACTORS PROVISION

A copy of this Policy shall be attached to each contractor's contract, and shall become a part of its contract. The contractor shall be responsible for communicating this Policy to the contractor's employees as well as any second-tier subcontractors that the contractor sublets to fulfill the provisions of the contract. Violations of this Policy by any contractor's employee will mandate such contractor's employee immediate removal from the Fire District premises, and bar any future access to any Fire District premises.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

Any member who is subject to, or observes, violent behavior or threat of violent behavior, a firearm or other firearm, or any situation that appears to be potentially dangerous, must immediately report such action to a Fire Officer, who will immediately notify the Fire Chief. The reporting person shall not directly confront the person who is the source of the report, question, or complaint before notifying a Fire Officer. Nevertheless, the reporting person is required to make a reasonable effort to report Policy violations or make workplace violence or threats of violence known should they exist.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This Policy will be provided to all recruit members at each Recruit Member Orientation and will be available in the fire station in the Policy Manual which is available on Fire District computers/webpage as well as a printed copy in the radio room. It is the responsibility of every member to acknowledge and understand all Fire District Policies.

Passed July 2024