

RIDE-ALONG

CHAPTER 7.18

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Submitted by: Deputy Chief

Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue

All non-Alachua County Fire Rescue employees riding on ACFR units must comply with the following:

No one is permitted to ride on an Alachua County Fire Rescue vehicle without proper compliance with these regulations and procedures.

All riders will complete a Ride-Along Release except personnel from the following categories: (Exempt)

- New Alachua Fire Rescue Employees on Orientation.
- Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Cooperative Dispatch Center, Personnel on Orientation, or Radio Module Training.
- Students of a current contracted Clinical Agreement and the Agreement must include the following:
 - A liability statement.
 - Students of a program without Clinical Agreement with ACFR will need a Ride-Along Form and will comply with all other sections. These students will not have priority over contracted students.

Dress Code

- Navy or Black long pants (pants must be worn at the waist line)
- Black or dark blue socks
- Grey, Blue or White shirt with collar (polo shirts preferred), black belt
- Shirt must be tucked in
- Black polished and laced leather shoes
- Company logos are allowed on shirts (paramedic and EMT student shirts only)
- Minimal jewelry (no facial jewelry, no earrings)

All riders must be at least 18 years of age, except as authorized by the Chief.

Reporters from media must have prior authorization from the Chief or his/her designee.

Representatives from government agencies must have prior authorization from the Chief.

There will only be one rider per Apparatus. No riders of any sort are permitted in vehicles that cannot accommodate the rider in a safe fashion.

All Riders will be coordinated via the Technical Services Branch prior to riding.

When a rider appears for a ride-along the crew will check Telestaff to confirm scheduling. If the rider is not scheduled on Telestaff the crew will contact the Duty District Chief to confirm authorization to ride.

No ride will be scheduled between 0000 and 0800 hours without prior approval from the Chief.

All non-program sponsored Ride-Alongs will end at 2100 hours unless it is a part of a clinical ride along.

Prior to anyone riding a unit, a safety orientation session will be conducted by the supervisor with the rider(s). This session will include at least the following:

- Department regulations about seat belt use.
- Department safety guidelines.
- Crew member in-charge for scene activities.

Ride-Along Forms are available via the Intranet.

The [Ride-Along Form](#) is to be kept on file for a period of at least three years at Headquarters.

County Policy dictates that non-employees are not permitted to ride in County Vehicles in a non-authorized capacity.

Accompaniment of Patient

A patient's family member or close friend may ride in the Transport Unit provided that the accompanying person does not interfere with the duties of the crew and has a practical interest in the transported patient's wellbeing. The rider **shall** be assisted into and out of the vehicle at all times. The rider shall remain restrained in a safety belt at all times.

The Rescue Lieutenant may elect to refuse a rider if the subject appears to be belligerent, intoxicated or disruptive.

Riders not associated with a Department approved program (including Explorers or RAMP team approved observers) must be authorized by the Chief or his/her designee