

Standard Operating Guidelines

Wireless Telephones

Guideline # 130.27

Date: 3/10 N

PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish a policy regarding the use of wireless telephones while on duty or in an official capacity.

POLICY

For purposes of this policy, the terms cellular telephone, mobile telephone, satellite telephone and wireless telephone are synonymous. Use of device pertains to voice calls as well as text messages.

This District recognizes the value of wireless telephones and does not seek to prohibit or unduly restrict their use. Yet, some restrictions for their on-duty use are necessary to ensure firefighter safety, promote professionalism and protect the public good. Wireless telephones can become an attractive nuisance for personnel who make or receive excessive personal calls as well as conduct personal business that is more convenient to handle on duty rather than off duty.

It is the policy of this District that personnel may possess wireless telephones on duty, but their use must be in compliance with law and this policy.

GENERAL

Use of a personally owned wireless telephone while on duty is permitted providing it does not interfere with job duties. Personal devices are not to be used while en-route or during any emergency calls with certain exceptions.

The District does realize that on some occasions the use of personal cell/smart phones may be necessary. In these cases they may be used in an official capacity, however all information gained, transmitted, documented or used in any manner shall remain confidential and part of the official call report and not shared with outside sources.

It shall be prohibited to use any cell phone while driving any District owned vehicle.

When in physical possession on duty, personally owned wireless telephones are to be in the vibrate mode so as not to sound at an inappropriate time.

The District will not provide repair or replacement should a personally owned wireless telephone become lost, stolen or damaged while on duty.

Cell phones shall not be used during public events, inspections or training unless absolutely necessary.

Approved: Board 7-19-10

Date: 7/20/2010

Chief: