

SOUTH WHATCOM FIRE AUTHORITY RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in riding on a South Whatcom Fire Authority Aid/Fire Unit. This information will help make your ride experience educational and enjoyable. In some cases, you will not just be a passive observer. You may be asked to carry equipment, and may be allowed access to areas not available to the general public. Please take the time to review the information provided below.

RIDER QUALIFICATIONS:

Riders must be at least 16 years of age and have no disabilities which would require accommodation on an emergency scene. Prospective riders under the age of 18 must be approved to ride by the Fire Chief, and have the permission of their parent/guardian. Special consideration may be given to riders who are enrolled in a First Responder/EMT course, and have the permission of their sponsoring agency.

South Whatcom Fire Authority reserves the right to refuse ride time to anyone.

SCHEDULING RIDE TIME:

Anyone interested in riding on a South Whatcom Fire Authority Aid/Fire unit must contact the administrative offices at:

**South Whatcom Fire Authority
2050 Lake Whatcom Blvd.
Bellingham, WA 98229
(360) 676-8080**

The appropriate release forms and set up of the event must take place at least one week prior to the ride date. If you must cancel or change your time, call the office as soon as possible. If you do not show up on your scheduled day, you may be refused further ride a long opportunities. You will be required to provide a picture ID at the time of your first visit, which will be copied and attached to the waiver form. (Riders under the age of 18 will need to have their parent/guardian sign the waiver form as well.)

Ride time is between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for riders between the ages of 16 to 18. Extension of this time may be granted to riders older than 18, and is at the discretion of the Fire Chief. You must provide your own food and drink for the duration of the ride time.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

You will be assigned to shadow a career Fire Fighter/EMT and be introduced to the personnel you will be observing. They will be your guide throughout the day, and it is important that you listen carefully to what they say. On an emergency scene things may happen fast, and it is important to stay with them at all times. You may not interact with a patient without the permission of the Officer-in-Charge of the scene.

DRESS CODE:

Riders are required to wear dark colored pants or slacks, a white/light colored dress shirt, and comfortable shoes. If you have safety shoes or boots, you may wear them. If affiliated with a volunteer department, you may wear your class B uniform. NO JEANS, SWEATS, T-SHIRTS, OR TENNIS SHOES! You may be required to wear a lightweight uniform jacket when responding on calls. You will be asked to re-schedule your ride time if you are not properly attired.

PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY:

As health care providers, we are required to keep all patient information confidential. As a rider, you are required to do the same. You are not allowed to record the names of any patients we see. Likewise, you may not take any photographs or videotape any patient without the express permission of the patient and the Officer-in-Charge of the scene.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROTECTION:

You will be issued basic protective equipment to use during your ride time. Items provided will include latex gloves and protective eyewear. Even though you have been provided with protective equipment, you are not to willingly expose yourself to any patient's body fluids. You may not participate or perform any procedures that may expose you unless you have completed the State required infectious disease training class for EMS personnel. In the unlikely event that you become contaminated with a patient's body fluids, you must immediately notify the Officer-in-Charge.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE RIDE-A-LONG
PROGRAM WITH
SOUTH WHATCOM FIRE AUTHORITY**