

Probationers,

Thank you for being here and willing to volunteer your time with us to serve the community. Just wanted to cover a few things to make sure everyone has the same understanding. The three attached documents cover guests at the firehouse, kitchen use and who to go to for what. Hopefully you find these helpful.

Your probationary time is your opportunity to learn, train and show the department members and officers your desire to be here, your work ethic and proficiency at your skills. While it is true that you learn yourself by teaching, probationers should not necessarily be teaching other probationers. This is where steps can be missed and a lack of full understanding of the skill passed on to the next person. It is preferable that probationers look to members or officers to teach them. You need to have a teachable spirit and take constructive criticism from others. None of us know everything and we all learn every day. Don't be offended if someone points out a different or potentially better way to do something.

While we encourage you to spend your free time at the station studying for class or hanging out, please use this time wisely if you need to study standing orders, maps, vehicles, ect. Your desire should be to get your initial skills completed ASAP so you can go on calls and then to complete your probationary packet to be considered for voting membership in the association. Don't wait till the last minute; work ahead on your packets. If you see something that needs done at the station, jump in and do it. If the carpet needs vacuumed, the trash taken out, kitchen cleaned, counters wiped, dishwasher emptied, truck washed, vehicle helped backing in, take it upon yourself to do it. All of us should be leaving this place better than we found it. Please don't leave cookware, dishes or glasses laying around.

Standing orders are our local protocol and your approval by our medical director to operate as a EMT. These guide how we make decisions and treat patients. Do not take these lightly or think you learned this in EMT class. You need to know your protocols, drugs and hospital capabilities. Take the time to study and fully understand. Likewise when learning a vehicle for riders training, you need to know the vehicle inside and out and what each piece of equipment does. Ask multiple people to train you that have sufficient time themselves on the vehicle. Different people gives you different perspectives and hopefully one will cover what another might of missed. We want you to have long term memory and not know it just enough to pass the test. You should wait at least 24 hours from last time training to attempting check off.

When you are cleared to start going on calls, you should be an active participant in patient care. Assess and treat your patient. Don't always wait for someone to ask or tell you what to do. Again, this is your opportunity to show your peers your desire to be here and demonstrate your abilities. One you become a driver, don't always just drive. Spend time in the back perfecting your patient assessment skills. The right front seat is reserved for the officer / department member / highest certified person. If you are sitting here and a senior person to you shows up, you need to vacate the seat and move to the back.

We value you being here and want to help guide you in the right direction. There are some really knowledgeable and experienced members here willing to teach you. Remember, we all started where you are. If anyone has any questions or just needs to talk, my door is always open and my contact info is below.

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