

ADOPTED: MAY 1, 2019

REVISED:

PURPOSE:

To provide for the emotional health of our members and those impacted by stressful event(s).

OBJECTIVE:

The fire service can be both physically and emotionally demanding. Any event that causes unusually strong emotions has the potential to interfere with the ability to function normally. Jefferson Fire District values its members and those in the community. Jefferson Fire District shall use specially trained person(s) to provide peer support for its members and community. This guideline is for those serving in that capacity.

A. SCOPE:

This guideline applies to all members of the Jefferson Fire District.

B. APPOINTMENT:

1. The Fire Chief shall appoint members to the Peer Support Team.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The Chief, or designee, will be responsible for supervising the administration of these guidelines.
2. The Peer Support Team members will be responsible for maintaining a relationship with Fire District personnel and will provide counsel and guidance when requested.

D. DUTIES OF THE PEER SUPPORT TEAM

1. Peer Support Team members shall provide emotional support for Fire District and/or community members in a time of need.
2. Peer Support Team member may assist in support functions other than Peer Support.
3. Peer Support Team members must be secular in their actions and discussions. Team members may inquire if there is a faith based person the individual wants to talk to, and a Peer Support Team member may assist in contacting that person.
4. If a Peer Support Team member is also an ordained minister they can only function as a team member or a minister, not both at the same time. When possible a team member, acting in the capacity of a minister, must remove Fire District identification.
5. During an active incident the Incident Commander may request Peer Support Team member(s) to the scene or a secondary location. Peer Support Team

members shall work within the frame work of the Incident Management System when called to the scene of an incident.

6. Post incident a member, or members, may contact a Peer Support Team member directly.
7. Firefighters and/or EMS personnel may also be a Peer Support Team member.
8. During an incident a Fire District member may ask a Peer Support Team member for emotional support. The Incident Commander or supervising officer must be notified and both members should safely remove themselves from the immediate area when authorized to do so.
9. Peer Support Team members may be asked to represent the Fire District at non Fire District functions or events.
10. Peer Support Team members will comply with all policies, procedures and guidelines of the Fire District.
11. Peer Support Team members may self-dispatch to a scene if they deem the complexity of the incident didn't allow for the IC to request a team member.
12. Peer Support Team members may be asked to make hospital visits.
13. If an incident involves severe injury or death of a Jefferson Fire District member, or immediate family, it is recommended that peer support come from an outside agency.
14. Peer Support Team members shall maintain confidentiality per ORS 181A.835.

E. QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

1. Peer Support members can serve the Fire District as a single roll member. (This means they do not need to be firefighters.)
2. Peer Support members shall be at least 21 years of age.
3. Any individual who has been convicted of a felony offense will not be considered for membership. An Oregon criminal background check will be conducted.
4. Successful completion of a six-month probationary period.
6. Complete Hazardous Materials Awareness training.
7. Complete Blood born and air born awareness and prevention class.
8. Complete a Jefferson Fire District orientation class.
9. Complete and obtain certification in Individual and Group Peer Group Support issued by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

F. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. If the Peer Support Team members is a firefighter with Jefferson Fire District they must comply with the firefighter attendance requirements.
2. If the person is a Peer Support Team member only the individual must attend 50% of fire drills quarterly. If applicant does not meet this standard, during

any quarter, a letter will be sent reminding them of the minimum attendance requirement. If the attendance requirement is not met in the next quarter, a letter will be sent suspending them from any emergency response until the minimum required attendance has been met.

G. THE PEER SUPPORT TEAM UNIFORM

1. Uniforms shall be issued in accordance to Jefferson Fire District Uniform Guidelines.