

Rules and Regulations

Administrative Regulations
Policy 124.0
Cell Phones



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of personal cellular telephones for the safety of fire department personnel and to promote a positive image in the community.

The ability to carry a cell phone is a privilege, not a guaranteed right.

Policy

The City of Bryan Employee Handbook #503 shall be the primary standard for cell phone use.

For this policy, texting and sending email is to be considered the same as talking on the cell phone unless otherwise specified.

Non-emergency

During the normal daily non-emergency operations of the City of Bryan Fire Department personnel are permitted to carry their personal cell phones. They may be set to an audible ring tone, silent or vibrate.

While interacting with the public (tours, CPR classes, public education, etc.) the cell phone shall be set to silent or vibrate and shall not be answered.

- Exception: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Chaplain, Duty Officer.

Training

This policy applies to all training and to all members of the Fire Department, at all training both in-house and outside training.

All cell phones, both city issued and personal cell phones shall be set to silent or vibrate.

Cell phones shall not be answered during training class. No texting and/or sending email will be permitted during training class.

- Exception: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Chaplain, Duty Officer.

Emergency Scenes

All cell phones shall be set to silent or vibrate during all calls both emergency and non-emergency.

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Cell phones shall not be answered, or the use of texting and/or sending email while on calls.

- Exception: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Chaplain, Duty Officer.

In the event of an extended scene time (exceeding two (2) hours), cell phones may be utilized on a limited basis (not to exceed five (5) minutes total) to conduct personal business after receiving permission from Command. This shall be performed out of public view.

Driving and Riding Fire Department Apparatus

The use of cell phones either by speaking, texting, sending email, etc., shall not be permitted while on any moving fire department apparatus.

- Exception: Chief 20 and Chief 21, Tahoe.

When operating in a staff car, only speaking conversations are permitted.

Texting and emailing is not permitted while operating any fire department vehicles.

Violation of this portion of the policy shall be deemed a safety violation and subject to progressive discipline.

Use of Personal Cell Phone by the Public

Personnel of the Fire Department should not allow the public to use their personal cell phone for the following reasons:

- Allowing the public to use your cell phone may permit your cell phone to be publicly inspected due to the "Freedom of Information Act".
- Personal cell phone numbers can be identified if the receiving phone has caller-id.

For emergency purposes only, the public is permitted to use city cell phones for limited conversations only.

Cell Phone Pictures

Pictures shall not be taken at any incident with personal cell phones.

Violation of this portion of the policy shall be deemed an inappropriate release of information and subject to progressive discipline.

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Emergency Modifications

Due to the nature of responses made by the City of Bryan Fire Department, exceptions can only be made to this policy by the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief or their designee.

Violation of Policy

Violation of this policy will result in either or both:

- Progressive discipline
- The violator will be barred from carrying personal cell phones at the fire station or on calls.