

Bethel Fire Department

Chain of Command

A-001

Purpose and Policy

Bethel Fire Department is a town owned department subject to the rules and regulations of the Town of Bethel as well as the rules and regulations specific to the department. These regulations exist to maintain the good order and function of the department, safeguard the health and well being of the members, and to maintain continuity between leadership/ membership with changes that may occur. The primary structure of the Fire Department is known as the Chain of Command which provides the structure on which the department is organized and controlled. The purpose of this policy is to define that structure and insure that all parties understand that orders/ commands are required both on the emergency scene as well as inside the organization.

Requirements

The organizational structure that must be instituted and followed is the Chain of Command (CoC). The positions of this CoC start at the bottom with Senior Fire Fighter, the next level is Lieutenant, Captain follows, the Assistant Chief, and finally the Chief of Department. The fire department cannot operate as a democracy, it is a para-military style organization.

Each position has its own requirements and responsibilities that are laid out in another SOG. It must be clearly understood that all legal orders/ commands, falling under the purview of the fire department, issued by an officer, on an emergency scene or at the department, to apply to any and all personnel beneath the rank and seniority of the officer giving the command, must be followed to the letter without question or discussion except for clarity. The one and only exception to this rule may be of a safety nature, however any concern or protest to the command must be taken for review to the next higher-level officer, who may override the command or enforce it. The concern or command can be taken through each step until it reaches the top of the CoC at the Chief of Department/ Incident Command level.

Any command issued on the fireground or emergency scene, concerning the emergency, can only be appealed to the CoC. Concerns that reside with the workings of the department can be taken to the town manager but only after notification to the Chief of Department and only with the initial request submitted in writing to the town manager which will include a request for a meeting.

Final Statement

All members will abide by this SOG fully from this date forward. The purpose of this SOG is to clearly establish the command structure for the Fire Department and to instill an understanding of the system and the exact and timely compliance to all orders and commands that must be followed. Failure to do so, based on the nature and severity of the offense, can and will result in a written warning for the first offense up to suspension and potential termination with the second occurrence, or the immediate dismissal if conditions warrant.

Chief

Date

