



DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish the policy of managing the membership of individuals charged and/or convicted of driving while impaired.

DEFINITIONS:

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

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GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department is an all hazards emergency response organization that relies upon operational members to operate its fleet of vehicles and apparatus to serve the community. All vehicles and apparatus must be and seen to be operated with due regard for and by the general public. At no time will a member being impaired while on duty or operating a department vehicle or apparatus while impaired be permitted or tolerated. All vehicle or apparatus related accidents shall result in an immediate drug and alcohol test for the members involved. Emergency Services personnel that operates a motor vehicle while impaired by any substance demonstrates a serious lack of the sound judgment and maturity that are required to perform their duties as a public servant.

Driving While Impaired

In the State of North Carolina the offense of driving while impaired is committed when a person drives any vehicle upon any highway, any street, or any public vehicular area within the state and is under the influence of any impairing substance. These substances include but are not limited to alcohol and Schedule I controlled substances. Any prescribed or over the counter medication or other substance that impairs the individual's cognitive or motor abilities may be considered an impairing substance. The offense is committed through the impairment, not the legality of the substance that was taken.



Consequences of Driving While Impaired

Members of Stoney Point Fire Department are expected to maintain high standards of professional and personal conduct. Therefore, members that are charged and or convicted of driving while impaired shall be evaluated for potential continued service with the department. The following standards are established for managing the consequences of driving while impaired by any member of the department:

- Any member charged with driving while impaired shall immediately notify the Fire Chief of the pending charges
- Member shall not be permitted to operate a department vehicle or apparatus until authorized by the Fire Chief, even if the charges are dropped or reduced
- Member shall only function of the role of a Firefighter until cleared of all charges
- Officers shall be suspended from their position until cleared of all charges

Full and Part Time paid staff that are charged with driving while impaired may be terminated from their positions for a lack of sound judgment, maturity and endangering the public trust. A conviction for driving while impaired by a full or part time paid member shall result in immediate termination as a driver's license and the operation of department vehicles and apparatus are conditions of their employment with Stoney Point Fire Department. Volunteer members charged with and or convicted of driving while impaired shall be evaluated for continued service as a Firefighter without authority to operate any vehicles or apparatus.

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References

NC GS 20-138.1

NC GS 20-138.2B