

Oconee County Emergency Services

Standard Operating Guidelines

for Rescue Squads



These Operational Guidelines provide guidance to the Rescue Squads in Oconee County, South Carolina for the establishment and functioning of the Rescue Squads as membership carries out their responsibilities.

Approved by Oconee County Rescue Squad
Advisory Commission and Director **TBD**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1- INTRODUCTION	4
Core Values	4
1.3 Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)	4
SECTION 2- OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE ORGANIZATION	5
2.1 Emergency Management & Rescue Division	5
2.2 The Division Organization Chart	5
SECTION 3 - OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS	6
3.1 Non-discriminatory and Harassment Statement	6
3.2 Positions	7
SECTION 4 - RESCUE SQUADS	9
4.1 Authorized Rescue Squads	9
A. Membership categories	10
B. Roles and Responsibilities of Members/Responders	10
4. Junior Member	13
5. Honorary Member	13
1. Requirements for membership	13
2. Application Procedure	13
3. Probationary Period	14
1. Active Member Requirements	15
2. Active Responder Requirements	15
3. Change in Membership Category & Leave of Absence	17
E. Transfer of Primary Membership	17
A. Roles and Responsibilities	18
B. Rescue Squad Communication	19
4.4 Rescue Squad Elections	19
A. Minimum Qualifications for Officer Positions	19
C. Nomination and Voting Procedures	20
4.5 COUNTY REPORTS	21
4.6 EMERGENCY RESPONSE – VEHICLES	21
4.7 THE DIVISION YEARLY VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM	21
4.8. SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER TAX DEDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VIP)	21

	3
4.9. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR EDITS TO STANDING SOP/SOG GUIDELINES	22
SECTION 5- Oconee County Emergency Services - Social Media Policy	22
5.1 Oconee County Emergency Services - Social Media Policy Violation Discipline Policy	23
INDEX	25
ADDENDUM	26
Appendix	48
Vehicle Description	56
POV COMPLIANCE CHECK SHEET	57

OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE STANDARD OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES - VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS

SECTION 1- INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authority Reference: Oconee County Ordinance No. 2012-24; South Carolina Act Number 519—Regs 58-1 and 58-101

1.2 The mission of Oconee County Emergency Services (OCES) is to provide the most effective, efficient, and professional response to the needs of the citizens of Oconee County and to all those who visit our community.

Core Values

The Rescue Squads:

- Respond to emergency response calls and give care to individuals in need
- Respond to rescue emergencies
- Respond to natural and man-made disasters as part of the coordinated public safety effort
- Respond to the needs of Oconee County with honesty, courtesy, and respect to all on scene
- Respond to all emergencies being prepared, expecting the worst
- Keep the safety of all a priority at all times
- Obtain and maintain all training required to respond to emergencies and needs of the community
- Represent the Oconee County Emergency Services, Emergency Management and Rescue Division (The Division), Oconee County, and Rescue Squads as professionals and with dignity
- Provide education to the Community

The Rescue Squad Membership has a moral duty to the County and the people we serve that is higher than that of non-public safety workers. The services we provide reflect on our community during the worst situations that people encounter. Calmness and professionalism from responders help set the tone in resolving the emergency. The impression we make under these circumstances gives a lasting impression of the Rescue Squad, the Division, and the County as a whole.

1.3 Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)

These Operational Guidelines provide guidance to the Rescue Squads in Oconee County, South Carolina for the establishment and functioning of the Rescue Squads as the Membership carries out their responsibilities.

The Emergency Services Director (The Director) has overall responsibility for the actions of the OCES Emergency Services, Management and Rescue Division's (the Division) staff and volunteers including issuing guidelines for the overall operations of the Division. All guidelines addressed in this document will reflect who is responsible and accountable for the direction and control of rescue operations within Oconee County. Guidelines benefit everyone in the organization, and they allow the Rescue Squads to function uniformly across the county. These guidelines were reviewed in 2026 by the Rescue Squad

Advisory Commission (RSAC) and are subject to change through submission of recommendations to the RSAC for review and debate with subsequent voting to amend if needed.

All Oconee County Rescue Squad Membership will fall under these Operational Guidelines. Failure to comply with the Guidelines will result in the Rescue Squad's forfeiture of any further funding allocated by the Division and removal of the Squad's authority to operate as a county approved EMS entity.

Rescue Squads are encouraged to enact their own policies, procedures, and guidelines providing they are equal to or more stringent than the Oconee County SOGs, policies, procedures, and guidelines.

SECTION 2- OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE ORGANIZATION

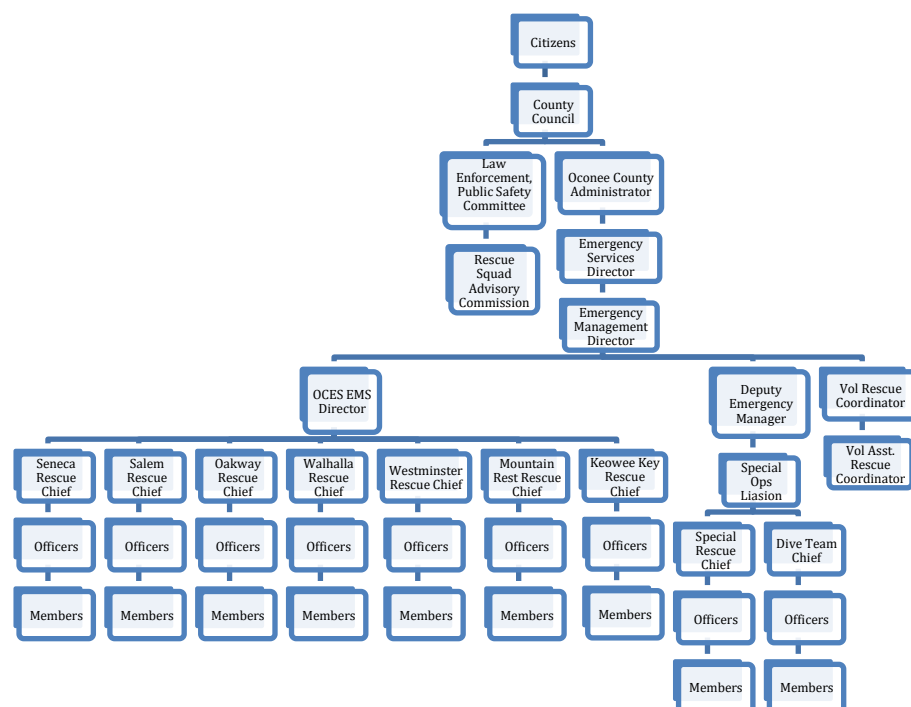
2.1 Emergency Management & Rescue Division

As part of the OCES, the Division's role is to coordinate the emergency medical, rescue and recovery efforts and to foster strong partnerships with local businesses, adjoining counties and all agencies and special teams within the county to pool knowledge and resources.

The **Emergency Management** Director, or designee is directly responsible for the proper operation and conduct of the Division. All Rescue Squads within the Division operate under the authority delegated to the Director.

2.2 The Division Organization Chart

Figure 1 Organization Chart



SECTION 3 - OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS

3.1 Non-discriminatory and Harassment Statement

Oconee County Emergency Services is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free from discrimination and harassment of any kind. This commitment is reflected in our policies, procedures, and standard operating guidelines.

Oconee County Emergency Services prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic.

Discrimination and harassment take many forms, including but not limited to:

- Verbal abuse, insults, or derogatory comments based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected characteristic.
- Physical threats or violence based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected characteristic.
- Sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

All employees, volunteers, contractors, and other individuals associated with Oconee County Emergency Services are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to treat all colleagues, clients, and members of the public with dignity and respect.

Any employee, volunteer, contractor, or other individual associated with Oconee County Emergency Services who engages in discriminatory or harassing behavior will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or other association with the organization.

If you believe that you have experienced discrimination or harassment, or if you witness such behavior, you are encouraged to report it immediately to a supervisor, manager, or the Human Resources department. All reports will be investigated promptly and confidentially, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted.

All volunteers, applicants, or citizens are encouraged to report any type of complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or reprisal to the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission (RSAC), or to the Director who will then report the complaint to the Commission. The RSAC may use the following modalities to resolve the complaint:

- The RSAC shall hear the complaint in executive session and make a decision, in consultation with legal counsel if necessary, regarding the complaint.
- The RSAC may defer the decision to the ~~OCEC Rescue Chief~~ EMD Director or OCEC Director for resolution that falls within existing departmental policies or guidelines established at the County level.

We are committed to promoting a work environment that is safe, respectful, and inclusive, and to providing equal employment opportunities to all individuals regardless of their backgrounds.

3.2 Positions

- A. Staff** include Command Staff, Office Staff, County Level Volunteer Staff, and Rescue Squads. Roles and responsibilities for these positions are to maintain the functionality of medical first response and search, rescue, and recovery responses on behalf of the Director and to perform any other assigned tasks delegated by the Director. When present on the scene Staff members may function as the Incident Commander. These positions report to the Director and cooperate with Rescue Chiefs to accomplish tasks assigned.
- B. Command Staff** assist the Director with the day-to-day operation of the Division. Responsibilities include but are not limited to management, education, training, and assisting with budget preparation, logistics, and planning. These positions report to the Director and cooperate with Rescue Squad Chiefs, Rescue Coordinator, and Assistant Coordinator to accomplish their duties.
- C. Office Staff** perform a variety of office/clerical support duties to help manage the business of the Division through administrative duties and activities including receiving and handling information. These positions report to the Director and cooperate with Rescue Squad Chiefs, Command Staff, and Coordinators to accomplish their duties.
- D. County Level Volunteer Staff** include a **Rescue Coordinator** and **Assistant Rescue Coordinator** appointed from the Rescue Squad Responders by the **Emergency Management** Director. As key personnel at the incident site, they engage in management needs of the incident, supervising rescue activities, and acting as liaison with local, state, and federal agencies involved with the incident.

1. Qualifications: Applicants for both positions must

- pass the annual **NFPA OCES** Level 1 physical,
 - have knowledge of Oconee County roads, trails, and waterways,
 - have successfully completed the following courses sponsored by Oconee County or the State of South Carolina--Incident Command System (ICS)-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents and ICS-400: Advanced ICS. In addition to the web-based IS-100, 200, 700 and 800.
- In addition,
- a. **The Rescue Coordinator** candidate shall have five (5) years as an active responder, and held at least one of the following positions: Rescue Squad Chief, Assistant Rescue Squad Chief, Rescue Coordinator, or Assistant Rescue Coordinator, and
 - b. **The Assistant Rescue Coordinator** candidate shall have a minimum of three (3) years as an active responder.
 - c. Years of service can be waived at the discretion of the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission put forth by vote.

2. Appointment is for a 2-year term. The Rescue Coordinator is appointed on odd numbered years, and Assistant Rescue Coordinator is appointed on even numbered years. All resumés for consideration are due to the **Emergency Management** Director no later than September 30 with a letter stating why

the applicant would like the position or a statement that the applicant would like to continue in that position. All resumés received by the deadline will be evaluated by the Emergency Management Director. A list of names of approved candidates will be provided at the October Chiefs' meeting for comment. Rescue Squad Chiefs may submit letters containing facts for recommendation or non-recommendation on the approved candidates. November 15 is the deadline for making the appointment that begins on January 1.

E. Rescue Squad Advisory Commission (The Commission) The Rescue Squad Advisory Commission ("Commission") is established in accordance with Oconee County ordinance and serves as a body of active Rescue Squad members responsible for providing guidance, advice, and recommendations regarding current and future Rescue Squad operations and needs within Oconee County.

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members as defined by county ordinance, including members appointed by the Rescue Squad Chiefs and members elected by regional representation. All members must be active Rescue Squad members in good standing.

The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Oconee County Council, specifically through the Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee, on matters affecting Rescue Squad operations, personnel, training, equipment, and overall service delivery.

The duties and responsibilities of the Commission include, but are not limited to:

Advising County Council and its designated committee on matters affecting the operation and activities of Rescue Squads and related emergency service agencies.

Participating in the development of operational, capital, and long-range budget recommendations for rescue services.

Preparing and submitting reports, recommendations, and plans to County Council or its designated committee regarding rescue service operations and improvements.

Promoting coordination, communication, and information sharing among all Rescue Squads within the county.

Reviewing and evaluating current and proposed rescue service activities to maintain effective and efficient operations.

Ensuring regional representation by maintaining communication with and visiting assigned Rescue Squads as necessary.

The Commission shall meet at least monthly and operate in compliance with all applicable county ordinances, policies, and the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

The Commission may adopt bylaws for the orderly conduct of its business, provided such bylaws are consistent with county ordinance and applicable law.

The Commission shall serve as the grievance committee for Rescue Squad-related grievances.

(ord. No. 2025-15)

F. Volunteer Rescue Squads report directly to the Oconee County Rescue Chief and cooperate with all staff. The Rescue Squads are encouraged to become South Carolina Non-Profit Corporations and IRS 501(c)(3) recognized Corporations.

SECTION 4 - RESCUE SQUADS

4.1 Authorized Rescue Squads

OCES has authorized the following organizations to operate:

- Rescue 1 – Seneca Rescue Squad, Inc.
- Rescue 2 – Salem Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc.
- Rescue 3 – Oakway Rescue Squad, Inc.
- Rescue 4 – Walhalla Rescue, Inc.
- Rescue 5 – Westminster Rescue Squad, Inc.
- Rescue 6 – Mountain Rest Rescue Squad, Inc.
- Rescue 7 – Oconee Dive Team, Inc. (Dive Team)
- Rescue 8 – Oconee Dive and Special Rescue Squad, Inc. (Special Rescue Team)
- Rescue 22 – Keowee Rescue Squad, Inc.

Rescue Squads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 22 provide initial emergency medical response and respond within designated Squad boundaries. There are no designated boundaries for secondary response areas. Rescue Squads 7 and 8 cover the whole county for dive and technical rescue services, e.g., Swiftwater, confined space, trench, and rope rescue. On an as needed basis, other activities may be assigned to all Rescue Squads. Members/Responders in Squads 7 & 8 may also be Members/Responders of one of the medical response Rescue Squads.

4.2 Membership of the Rescue Squads consists of individuals who volunteer their time to benefit the people who live and visit our community. With this caring and willingness comes a responsibility to follow all policies set forth in the Division guidelines. Membership is a privilege that is not to be abused. More often than not, rescue volunteers do not receive recognition for what they do. It is not for the recognition that volunteers give of their very precious time and energy; it is a giving spirit and desire to help others that sets them apart. As individuals move up in the organization, they accept even more responsibility. The Members/Responders will not be required to do anything that may reasonably interfere with their regular employment or ability to earn a livelihood. Member/Responder will be given reasonable time and opportunity to change his/her status back to "In Good Standing" if the occasion occurs.

A. Membership categories

There are five (5) categories of Membership—Member, Responder, Chaplain, Junior and Honorary. Each category has different roles and responsibilities.

B. Roles and Responsibilities of Members/Responders

1. A "Member" is an individual who, whether by personal choice or lapses in Responder requirements, does not respond to emergencies unsupervised but desires to assist the Squad in daily operations. Roles and responsibilities:

- Responds to calls only with other active responders affiliated with an approved OCES Rescue Squad or, whereas directed by a Rescue Squads Command Staff.
- Must have a current basic CPR/AED/FA certification from a course recognized by the Division,
- Is not required to have annual training, physical, and/or certifications other than CPR/AED/FA unless responding to calls supervised as stated in definition in which an active physical is required.
- Is encouraged to attend meetings,
- Has voting rights, and
- Can hold secretary and treasurer positions, if qualified

2. A "Responder" is an individual who responds to a dispatched 911 call. The call may be medical, dive, or special rescue in nature. A Responder may be on a Medical Rescue Squad, and/or the Dive Team, and/or the Special Rescue Team.

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Squads 1-6 And 22

Roles and responsibilities:

- Responds to dispatched medical calls in accordance with requirements of their squad
- Must have a current EMR certification, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification, or higher,
- Must have a current BLS provider certification from a course recognized by the Division (HSI),
- Encouraged to complete 8-hours of ride time with EMS,
- Must complete the bi-annual skills check-off/training requirements outlined by county approved BLS provider
- Must have current BLS certification.
- Annual radiological training.
- Must complete the online EVRA 1410 course & IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 (one time)
- Must have an annual physical

- Must have annual Blood Borne Pathogens Training
- Is required to attend meetings and training sessions in accordance with requirements of their squad or the SOGs,
- Has voting rights, and
- Can hold all positions in Squads 1-6 & 22, if qualified.
- May only be affiliated with 1 Rescue Squad with the exception to squads 7 and 8.
- Must live within 5 miles of the borders of the squad territory area of which their primary membership is located, or must work or spend considerable time within the district of the primary squad
- May hold primary membership in a squad if the responder or member is frequently in that squad's area for employment, second home, or other reasons which would benefit the citizens of Oconee County
- shall not have voting rights, membership rights, or serve in an officer position outside of their primary squad but may support as a non-voting, non-officer member to benefit another squad in times of low membership.

Dive Responders- Dive Responders may serve as a Diver or a Tender or both.

Diver Responder

Roles and responsibilities:

- Responds to dispatched dive calls in accordance with requirements of the squad
- Is required to have a current basic CPR/AED/FA certification from a course recognized by the Division,
- Must complete the following annual skills check-off/training requirements:
 - a. Exposure Control
 - b. **Specialized** Immobilization/Backboard
 - c. Emergency Worker/Radiological
 - d. Oxygen Administration
 - e. CPR/AED refresher (except in years of Certification or Recertification)
 - f. Annual swim test
 - g. Annual dive skills test
 - h. Annual depth qualification based on qualification
 - i. Hazmat Awareness
- Must complete the online EVRA course & IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 (one time) (see pages 9 & 10)
- Must have proper certification or recertification to maintain dive level status,
- Must have a successful annual Dive physical,
- Is required to attend meetings and training sessions in accordance with requirements of their squad or the SOGs,
- Has voting rights, and
- Can hold all positions on the Dive Team, if qualified with the exception of paid OCES staff, and OCSO who are not permitted to hold an Officer Rank or Title as a Rescue 7 affiliate, member, or responder.

Tender Responder

Roles and responsibilities:

- Responds to dispatched dive calls in accordance with requirements of the squad

- Is required to have a current basic CPR/AED/FA certification from a course recognized by the Division,
- Must complete the following annual skills check-off/training requirements:
 - a. Exposure Control
 - b. **Specialized** Immobilization/Backboard
 - c. Emergency Worker/Radiological
 - d. Oxygen Administration
 - e. CPR/AED refresher (except in years of Certification or Recertification)
 - f. Encouraged to take annual swim test
 - g. Hazmat Awareness
- Must complete the online EVRA course & IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 (one time) (see page 9 & 10) · Must have an annual physical,
- Is required to attend meetings and training sessions in accordance with requirements of their squad or the SOGs,
- Has voting rights, and
- Can hold all positions on the Dive Team, if qualified with the exception of paid OCES staff, and OCSO who are not permitted to hold an Officer Rank or Title as a Rescue 7 affiliate, member, or responder.

Special Rescue Team Responder - Squad 8

Roles and responsibilities:

- Responds to dispatched special rescue calls in accordance with requirements of the squad
- Is required to have current basic CPR/AED/FA certification from a course recognized by the Division,
- Must complete the following annual skills check-off/training requirements:
 - a. Exposure Control
 - b. **Specialized** Immobilization/Backboard
 - c. Emergency Worker/Radiological
 - d. CPR/AED refresher (except in years of Certification or Recertification)
 - e. Rope rescue
 - e. SR Knots, Anchors and Mechanical Advantage Systems
- Must complete the online EVRA course & IS-100, 200, 700 and 800 (one time) (see pages 9 & 10)
- Must have an annual physical,
- Is required to attend meetings and training sessions in accordance with requirements of their squad or the SOGs,
- Has voting rights, and
- Can hold all positions on the Special Rescue Team, if qualified with the exception of paid OCES staff, and OCSO who are not permitted to hold an Officer Rank or Title as a Rescue 8 affiliate, member, or responder.

3. A “Chaplain” is defined as being an asset used to assist the Rescue Chief, and incident commander by focusing on the needs of citizens and responders/members adversely impacted during a critical incident.

- Chaplains may be utilized by the squads when needed. The County has a list of volunteer chaplains, who are approved to provide services in times of need. The chaplains may respond non-emergently to scenes

when needed at the request of personnel on scene. Squads may also have chaplains who are members or responders based on meeting the qualifications as above.

4. Junior Member

- Age 14-17
- Follow all guidelines set forth by Oconee County Administrative Policy 230.00 Addendum #3.

5. Honorary Member

Honorary Members are not counted in the census of the Rescue Squad Membership or for establishing any required quorum at any Rescue Squad meetings and/or training.

Procedure:

Each Rescue Squad may, by a majority vote of the Membership present at any regularly scheduled meeting, accept a person into Honorary Membership provided the nominee meets one of the following qualifications.

Qualifications:

- Has been nominated by the Chief, or
- Has 20 years total service with the Division, or
- Has made significant contributions to the Rescue Squad.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Does not respond to calls.
- Does not have voting rights and cannot hold office unless designated by Rescue Squad Chief.
- May attend any meetings and/or training but may do so provided their participation does not subject them to unreasonable risk.
- Must be knowledgeable of and comply with HIPAA.

C. Application for Membership & Probationary Period

1. Requirements for membership

- All applicants must be at least 18 years of age unless, Junior Member age requirement is 14-17.
- Applicants should apply for Membership in the Rescue Squad that serves the area in which they live, work, or spend considerable time available for response.
Exceptions can be made by submitting in writing to the Rescue Squad involved.
- Applicants for countywide Rescue Squads 7 (Dive Team) and 8 (Special Rescue Team) may live anywhere in the county. Applicants from outside of Oconee County may be accepted with the Chiefs approval.

2. Application Procedure

- Applicants for Membership in any Rescue Squad must submit the following completed documents to the Rescue Squad Chief or designee:
 - 1) Application form,
 - 2) Criminal Records Check authorization form,
 - 3) Rules & Guidelines and Exposure Control Plan Certification form,

- 4) Patient Confidentiality/HIPAA Form
- 5) Hep B Vaccine Consent/Decline Form (Responders only via onboarding packet).
- 6) Online HR onboarding

The Rescue Squad will submit the completed documents to the Division.

- The Rescue Squad and/or the Division will conduct a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) background check on the applicant.
- The EMD Director will decide on approval of the applicant contingent upon a successful SLED background is completed. ***The prospective member will not be covered by County Workers Compensation Insurance until Director's approval is received. Prospective members may not participate in training or any squad event until the Director's approval is received. Candidates will be assessed in a timely manner. The Director must provide an update within 30 days of submission.***
- The Rescue Squad will check all references.
- Applicants must attend one regular meeting of the Rescue Squad in which Membership is desired prior to Rescue Squad discussing or voting on the applicant.
- Voting will occur at a regularly scheduled Rescue Squad meeting.
- Rescue Squad Members/Responders who are off probation and "In Good Standing" may vote.
- All voting by secret ballot will occur in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.
- If Membership is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Grievance Committee of the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission.
- If denied by either a membership vote or the Grievance Committee, the applicant may reapply for Membership after one-year from the date of denial.

3. Probationary Period

- "Member" - Rescue Squad Members will serve a 3-month minimum probationary period. The 3-month probationary period begins on the date the Member is voted into the Squad.
- "Responder" – Rescue Squad Responder will initially be classified as one of the following as appropriate:
 - a. Responder in Training: A Responder in Training is an individual who has not met the requirements for minimum training and/or annual physical. Responder in Training will not be issued any equipment and will not respond to calls. At the beginning of the Training period a mentor will be assigned by the Chief to oversee new member county check sheet. The mentor will be available to answer any questions and guide the Responder in Training through the training process. The Responder in Training will be covered by Worker's Compensation during meetings and training only. When all training and physical is completed, status will become "Probationary Responder" after approval by the Squad Chief.
 - b. Probationary Responder: A Probationary Responder meets all the requirements for minimum training and annual physical. Probationary Responder will be issued equipment. They will have a three (3) month period in which to be evaluated and mentored. The evaluator is designated by the Chief. The probationary period begins on the date the Chief authorizes the Responder to respond to dispatched calls.
 - c. The officers of the gaining squad will meet and at the discretion of the officers, can waive the probation period within OCES given members are in good standing: Affiliates, Responders, Members already associated with OCES.

After completing the three (3) month probationary period, the Rescue Squad Chief, with input from squad officers, will forward a written recommendation to their squad containing reasons for the decision too:

- Extend probation,
- Not recommend for permanent membership, or
- Recommendation for permanent membership.

Voting rights will not be granted until permanent Membership is granted.

D. Requirements for Member/Responder “In Good Standing” Status

1. Active Member Requirements

To be In Good Standing a **Member** must:

- Keep CPR/AED/FA certification up to date
- Have less than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from Rescue Squad meetings. After two (2) consecutive unexcused absences, the Squad will send the Member a Rescue Squad Attendance letter via Certified mail, Return Receipt Requested, or by email with “read receipt” requested.
- Have attended at least six (6) yearly Rescue Squad meetings during the twelve (12) month period of October 1 through September 30. Squads may have a more stringent requirement for meeting attendance. If so, Squads are to submit their requirement to the Division office.

Excused absences such as work, training, illness, must be approved in advance by the Chief or Chief’s designee. Excused absences count toward the required meeting attendance.

- A member may attend Rescue Squad meetings in person or virtually (via phone, or video chat) and receive attendance credit without penalty of an unexcused absence except for hands-on training.
- Comply with HIPAA.

A Member may be removed from the roster for any of the following:

- On the third (3rd) consecutive unexcused absence from a Rescue Squad meeting, if notification has occurred.
- the failure to participate in 50% of the squad yearly meetings.
- has let CPR/AED/FA certification lapse, or
- failure to comply with HIPAA.

Squads should offer, when appropriate, virtual attendance options.

Squads shall notify the members of their removal by certified mail stating their removal and reasons.

A Member who is removed from the roster may be reinstated, if granted by the RSAC, by submitting a letter of request to the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission explaining why reinstatement by the Rescue Squad should be granted. The issue will be taken up within one (1) meeting agenda.

2. Active Responder Requirements

To be In Good Standing a **Responder** must:

- Keep all designated specialty specific certifications and trainings up to date as required by SOGS
- Respond to calls as specified by the squad

- Submit monthly reports within a timely manner
- Completes call reports within a timely manner
- Have less than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from scheduled Rescue Squad meetings. After two (2) consecutive unexcused absences, the Squad will send the Responder a Rescue Squad Attendance letter via Certified mail, Return Receipt Requested, or by email with “read receipt” requested.
- Have attended six (6) yearly Rescue Squad meetings during the twelve (12) month period of October 1 through September 30. Squads may have a more stringent requirement for meeting attendance. If so, Squads are to submit their requirements to the Division office.
Excused absences such as work, training, illness must be approved in advance by the Chief or Chief’s designee. Family emergencies are also excused. Excused absences count toward the required meeting attendance.
- A responder may attend Rescue Squad meetings in person or virtually (via phone, or video chat) and receive attendance credit without penalty of an unexcused absence except for hands-on training.
- Meet required minimum training attendance if established by the Squad. If so, squads are to submit their requirements to the Division office.
- Comply with HIPAA,
- Must complete an annual physical within 12 months of prior physical. There is a 30-day grace period after 12 months.

A Responder will no longer be In Good Standing and will be prohibited from responding to calls for any of the following reasons:

- Has let yearly required training lapse as of January 1,
- Has let certifications lapse (CPR/AED/PR: EMR or higher, or for Rescue 7 & 8, CPR/AED/FA or higher),
- Has outstanding monthly call reports, or
- Has not completed the annual physical.

The Responder has until March 1 to comply with a lapse in yearly required training. The Responder has two (2) months to comply with lapses in certification, and 30 days for the requirement for an annual physical. The Responder has 10 days to turn in missing call reports. During this time the individual cannot respond to calls and is not considered to be In Good Standing for voting purposes in annual elections. The responder must still meet requirements for attending meetings and training. If lapses are not resolved within the required time frames, the Responder may be removed from the Responder roster. Exceptions may be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Rescue Squad Officers.

If the Responder has not met the Squad’s requirements for responding to calls, the Responder may establish an action plan developed jointly by the Responder and the Rescue Squad Officers. The action plan to remedy the lack of response must include a time frame for compliance. During this time the Responder will remain on the roster and must meet requirements of the action plan and all other meeting/training requirements. If the action plan is unsuccessful, the Responder may be removed from the Responder roster. If you are removed from the Responder roster, all squad and county equipment will be returned within seven (7) days of being notified.

A Responder may also be removed from the Responder roster for the following:

- On the third (3rd) consecutive unexcused absence from a Rescue Squad meeting, or

- the failure to attend six (6) Rescue Squad meetings in the twelve (12) months from October 1 through September 30, or
- failure to comply with HIPAA, or
- failure to respond to calls as designated by the Squad.
- **Squads shall notify the responder of their removal by certified mail stating their removal and reasons.**

A Responder who is removed from the roster may be reinstated by submitting a letter Request to the Rescue Squad Advisory Commission within one (1) meeting agenda, explaining why reinstatement by the Rescue Squad should be granted. The Commission will render a decision within 1 meeting agenda.

3. Change in Membership Category & Leave of Absence

If a Responder cannot or does not want to continue to meet the requirements for Responder In Good Standing status, and he/she wishes to continue to assist the Squad in an administrative capacity, that Responder may elect to change to the Member category. As a Member, he/she must meet all the requirements of that category to remain In Good Standing. The change must be made by notifying the Rescue Squad Chief in writing. The Squad will notify the Division of this change.

If a Member/Responder finds that he/she cannot meet the requirements of their category due to temporary work, family, medical issues, he/she may request to go on a Leave of Absence. The Leave of Absence would be for a time period determined in conjunction with the Rescue Squad Officers. The Squad will notify the Division of this change.

E. Transfer of Primary Membership

A Rescue Squad Member or Responder may request a transfer of primary membership. Until the process is completed membership will belong in the original Rescue Squad. If a letter of resignation is submitted to the original squad prior to acceptance by the new squad, all Memberships cease to that squad.

Responder/Member shall:

1. Inform present and new Rescue Squad Chiefs of intent to transfer primary membership.
2. Complete and submit "Transfer Form" to the present and potential gaining squad.
3. New Rescue Squad Membership must vote to accept or reject request for Membership.
4. If transfer is accepted, the transferred Member/Responder will be on probation for three (3) months having all the rights of a Probationary Responder. Membership will cease in the original squad (e.g., voting rights).

The officers of the gaining squad will meet and at the discretion of the officers, can waive the probation period within OCES given members are in good standing: Affiliates, Responders, Members already associated with OCES.

4.3 Rescue Squad Staff positions that are required or recommended are as follows:

Required Positions	Recommended Positions
Operational	Operational
Rescue Squad Chief	Assistant Rescue Squad Chief
Training Officer/Coordinator	Captain
	Lieutenants
	Equipment Officer
Administrative	Administrative
	Secretary
Treasurer	

To manage the operations of a Rescue Squad additional positions may be added at the Rescue Chief's discretion.

The staff positions may be elected by the Membership of the Rescue Squad using a secret ballot or appointed by an elected Board as long as that Board is elected from the Membership of the Rescue Squad and the Squad has voted to allow the Board to appoint staff positions.

If the Rescue Squad is incorporated, the 1) President, b) Vice President, 3) Treasurer, and 4) Secretary positions must be elected separately from Squad staff positions unless the squad specifies at the time of election that the officers elected will serve both Rescue Squad and corporate positions.

In order to enhance public confidence in government and prevent situations which give the appearance of partiality, preferential treatment, improper influence or a conflict of interest, the holders of the offices of Chief, Assistant Chief or Treasurer at a respective Rescue Squad should not live in the same household. Exceptions may be made with the prior approval of the Director.

Any Rescue Squad Member or Responder serving in an acting position has the authority and responsibility of that position.

A. Roles and Responsibilities

Rescue Squads are to have at least a Rescue Squad Chief, Treasurer and a Training Officer/Coordinator. If a Rescue Squad chooses to have no other leadership positions, other than the required 3, then all other duties and responsibilities belong to the Rescue Squad Chief. If, in the opinion of the Chief, the Rescue Squad would function better with additional leadership positions, the Chief will appoint the individuals needed until such time as a special election can be held. A special election will be held in collaboration with Rescue Squad's Membership or elected Board (if members have voted to operate that way).

- The Rescue Squad Chiefs report to the EMS Director and cooperate with all the Division staff to accomplish assigned tasks and duties that are a part of the operation and supervision of their Rescue Squad. Rescue Chiefs of Dive and Special Rescue report to the special ops liaison.

- The Assistant Rescue Squad Chiefs report directly to their Rescue Squad Chief and cooperate with the Division staff in performing the supervision and duties assigned. The Assistant Chief fills in for the Chief when needed.
- The Training Officers/Coordinator report to their Rescue Squad Chief, Assistant Chief, and the Division staff that may be assigned to assist with specific training. Training Officers ensure that the Rescue Squad meets all the training requirements and guidelines. They perform any other duties that may be assigned by the Rescue Squad Chief.
- The Captain, Lieutenants, Secretaries, and Treasurers report to their Rescue Squad Chief and Assistant Chief. They perform assigned duties.
- The Equipment Officers report to their Rescue Squad Chief and Assistant Chief. The Equipment Officer or Rescue Chief, if there is no Equipment Officer, will:
 1. ensure that all equipment is accounted for and in good condition,
 2. ensure no maintenance is done on a county vehicle or equipment without prior approval of the designated Oconee Emergency Services Chief.
 3. complete the annual inventory of county-owned Rescue Squad equipment (using the inventory provided by the Division in December), and submit the annual inventory in February.
- The Treasurer reports to their Rescue Squad Chief and Assistant Chief.
 1. Prepares financial documents and accounting for submission to the division.
 2. Ensure financial policies are in compliance.

B. Rescue Squad Communication

- When on an emergency scene it is recommended, Officers are to be addressed by their rank. Example: Chief or Assistant Chief – Chief Brown; Lieutenants – Lt. Brown, etc.
- Members/Responders are to follow the “Chain of Command” in conducting Rescue Squad business.

4.4 Rescue Squad Elections

All positions are elected by the Membership or appointed yearly by the elected Board of Directors (if the membership has voted to operate this way). All candidates are vetted by the Director. Election night must have a quorum greater than 50% of membership.

A. Minimum Qualifications for Officer Positions

All candidates must be permanent Members/Responders who have been “In Good Standing” for one year prior to nomination unless already affiliated with another OCES agency for one year.

- Candidates nominated for Operational officer positions must meet the appropriate qualification for their squad specialty:
 1. Responder (Rescue Squads 1-6 and 22) - candidates must hold a current Emergency Medical Responder or higher certification
 2. Dive Responder (Rescue Squad 7) - candidates must have attended Dive Team Orientation and Tender training.
 3. Special Rescue Team Responder - candidates must have attended the Special Rescue Team Orientation.
- Administrative officer candidates (Secretary or Treasurer) may be a Member or a Responder.

Additional Requirements for specific officer’s position are as follows:

- Chief for any squad: Have three (3) consecutive years to date of nomination “In Good Standing” with an emergency services entity, held at least one officer position in the past, and successfully completed IS-100/200/700/800 within one year and ICS 300/400 or equivalent. In addition, the:
 1. Chief for Rescue Squad 7 (Dive Team): Hold a current certification in advanced dive, advanced dry suit, full face, and open water. Extensive documented diving experience.
 2. Chief for Rescue Squad 8 (Special Rescue Team): Be certified in any 2 rescue techniques--confined space, trench, high angle, and/or Swiftwater.
- Assistant Chief for any squad: Have two (2) consecutive years to date of nomination “In Good Standing” with an emergency services entity and successfully completed IS-100/200/700/800 within one year and ICS-300/400 or equivalent. Documented supervisory experience. In addition, the:
 1. Assistant Chief for Rescue Squad 7 (Dive Team): Hold a current advanced dive certification, and have dive experience.
- Lieutenant for any squad: Have one (1) year to date of nomination “In Good Standing” with a Rescue Squad and successfully completed IS-100/200/700/800 within one year and ICS 300 or equivalent.

The Director may allow exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

B. Membership Voting Requirements

The Rescue Squad’s Members and Responders must be off probation and “In Good Standing” in order to vote.

C. Nomination and Voting Procedures

Failure to comply with the following procedure may result in the Division appointing the Rescue Squad Chief and/or other positions that are deemed necessary for the operation of the Rescue Squad.

- Either the Rescue Squad Chief/Assistant Chief or Board President/Vice President will provide in writing to the Division by October 1, the Rescue Squad’s nominees for officer positions. The candidates for Chief and Assistant Chief shall submit a resume listing their required pre-requisites and their other qualifications before their first tenure. The OCES Deputy Chief/EMS Emergency Management Director and or designee within two weeks will review the recommendations and give their recommendations by the end of October. An election will be held at the Rescue Squad’s November meeting after candidates have been vetted.
- The Rescue Squad’s Membership present at the time of election constitutes the voting Membership.
- Voting by secret ballot will follow Roberts Rules of Order.
- Voting results will be determined by a simple majority with a 51% or greater quorum.
- If there is a delay in filling a position, the election for that position may be held later or the Director will appoint positions to prevent lapses in operations until following election cycle or special election is held.
- Absentee ballots by eligible voting Members/Responders are allowed as long as the ballot is appropriately witnessed. The ballot will be placed in a sealed envelope and signed across the seal by the voting party and a witness. The ballot must then be given directly to the OCES Deputy Chief/EMS Director or appointee prior to the vote.

4.5 COUNTY REPORTS

Each Rescue Squad must turn in monthly, quarterly, and annual reports. Each Chief is ultimately responsible for ensuring timely submission of these reports. Quarterly Grants will not be distributed until reports are received by the Division.

A. Drug expiration dates and vehicle mileage are reported Monthly on the last Friday of the month

B. Quarterly Report Forms are due on the 10th of the month following the end of each quarter and must include the following:

1. Quarterly Checklist,
2. Quarterly County Vehicle Log,
3. Quarterly Grant and Station Expenditures with receipts (financial report), and
4. Current Squad roster for which quarterly the squad is applying for
5. Completion of all outstanding call reports
6. List of county owned AED and pads along with locations or assignments.

C. Annual Inventory of county-owned Rescue Squad equipment, based on the inventory provided by the Division in December, is to be completed annually by each Rescue Squad in the month of February.

4.6 EMERGENCY RESPONSE – VEHICLES

- **Responding to emergencies in County Rescue Vehicles:** Refer to the Emergency Vehicle Response SOG (See Appendix).
- **Responding in Personal Vehicles:** Refer to Personal Vehicle Response and POV Emergency Response SOG (See Appendix).
- **EVRA Online Course:** All Responders are required to complete the Emergency Vehicle Response Awareness Course during their training period. The course is available online at <https://onlinetraining.statefire.org/>
- The County may require additional driving courses in order to drive county vehicles. Please refer to addendums and training documents.

All Responders must comply with all South Carolina driving laws.

4.7 THE DIVISION YEARLY VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Division has established a thank you system for the Volunteer Responders who meet and exceed specific defined goals annually. The program is funded by the Oconee County Council and will continue at their discretion.

All Responders off initial Probation and “In Good Standing” will be eligible for the Volunteer Incentive Program. The point distribution will be in accordance with the “Volunteer Incentive Calculation Guideline” for the given year.

4.8. SOUTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER TAX DEDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VIP)

South Carolina allows qualified volunteer Rescue Squad members a \$3,000 state tax deduction. Instructions and forms can be found at <http://www.scfiremarshal.lronline.com/forms/VIP%202012.pdf> . Each Rescue Squad shall provide qualified members with an Individual Certification Form no later than their January meeting. The Rescue Squad must also submit a Volunteer Incentive Program Qualified Rescue Squad Report Form to Office of State Fire Marshall by March 28.

4.9. PROPOSED ADDITIONS OR EDITS TO STANDING SOP/SOG GUIDELINES

Any new SOP/SOG shall be brought first to the RSAC SOG Committee. The SOG Committee will review, suggest edits if any, and then put forth towards a vote for finalization to the full RSAC before implementation.

SECTION 5- Oconee County Emergency Services - Social Media Policy

1. Purpose and Scope: The purpose of this social media policy is to provide guidelines and standards for the appropriate use of social media platforms by employees, volunteers, and representatives of Oconee County Emergency Services (OCES). This policy applies to all forms of social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and any emerging platforms. OCES recognizes the importance of social media as a tool for communication, education, and community engagement while emphasizing the need to maintain professional conduct and protect sensitive information.

2. Guidelines for Professional Conduct: All individuals representing OCES on social media platforms are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- a. Respect and Professionalism: Maintain a professional and respectful tone in all interactions. Refrain from engaging in offensive, discriminatory, or inflammatory discussions.
- b. Confidentiality and Privacy: Do not share confidential patient information, sensitive operational details, or any information that violates patient privacy regulations (such as HIPAA). Always obtain necessary permissions before posting any photos, videos, or personal information of patients, colleagues, or community members.
- c. Accuracy and Credibility: Share accurate and verified information. If unsure, avoid sharing until you can confirm the information's accuracy. Cite credible sources when sharing medical information or advice.
- d. Transparency: When officially representing OCES, clearly state your role and affiliation with the organization. Make it known that your opinions are your own if they do not reflect the official stance of OCES.
- e. Responsible Posting: Think before you post. Consider the potential impact of your content on the organization's reputation and the community. Avoid sharing content that might be controversial, offensive, or inappropriate.
- f. Conflict of Interest: Disclose any potential conflicts of interest that could influence your social media activity or content. This includes financial interests, affiliations, or personal relationships that could affect your objectivity.
- g. Engagement with the Public: Engage in meaningful conversations with the public, acknowledging their questions and concerns. Respond to comments and messages professionally and promptly, redirecting individuals to official channels for sensitive matters.

3. Official OCES Accounts: a. Individual squads may maintain official social media accounts for communication, education, and community engagement. All employees, volunteers, and representatives should follow these accounts to stay informed about official communications.

b. Only authorized individuals are allowed to post on official OCES accounts. If you have content that you believe should be shared on these accounts, contact the designated social media manager.

4. Personal Accounts: a. Personal social media accounts should not be used to represent OCES without proper authorization.

b. While employees and volunteers are entitled to their personal opinions, it should be clear that these opinions are personal and do not represent the official views of OCES.

5. Monitoring and Enforcement: OCES reserves the right to monitor social media activity involving the organization and its representatives. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or volunteer status.

6. Training and Education: OCES will provide training and education on this social media policy to all employees, volunteers, and representatives to ensure understanding and compliance.

7. Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in maintaining a positive online presence for OCES.

By adhering to this social media policy, we can uphold the reputation of Oconee County Emergency Services and promote responsible, professional, and respectful behavior in our online interactions.

Examples of allowed posts

- Training photos or videos
- Fundraising information
- Areas for public to avoid during special events or emergencies

Examples of inappropriate posts

- Any post that may potentially violate health information privacy law
- Photos of a medical event or accident scene where a sick or injured person is visible
- Vehicle tag numbers
- Derogatory comments toward other members or county organizations

5.1 Oconee County Emergency Services - Social Media Policy Violation Discipline Policy

1. Introduction: This discipline policy outlines the consequences for violations of the Oconee County Emergency Services (OCES) Social Media Policy. The purpose of this policy is to maintain the integrity and reputation of OCES in online interactions while ensuring that all representatives understand the importance of responsible social media use.

2. Violations: Violations of the OCES Social Media Policy include but are not limited to:

a. Sharing confidential patient information or violating patient privacy regulations (e.g., HIPAA). b. Posting offensive, discriminatory, or inflammatory content. c. Sharing inaccurate or unverified information related to OCES or medical matters. d. Failing to maintain a professional and respectful tone in online interactions. e. Representing OCES on personal accounts without proper authorization. f. Sharing content that conflicts with OCES's values or interests. g. Engaging in behavior that could negatively impact OCES's reputation.

3. Disciplinary Actions: Disciplinary actions for violations of the OCES Social Media Policy will be determined based on the severity of the violation, the potential impact on OCES's reputation, and any prior incidents. The following actions may be taken:

- a. Verbal Warning: For minor violations or a first-time offense, the individual may receive a verbal warning from their supervisor or a designated OCES representative. The warning will outline the violation and the expected behavior.
- b. Written Warning: In cases of repeated minor violations or a moderate violation, the individual may receive a written warning that outlines the violation, consequences of further violations, and steps to correct the behavior.

- c. Suspension: For serious violations or repeated moderate violations, the individual may face suspension from their duties for a specified period. During the suspension, the individual may not represent OCES on social media or in any other capacity.
 - d. Termination: Severe violations, continued violations after previous disciplinary actions, or violations that significantly damage OCES's reputation may result in termination of employment, volunteer status, or representation with OCES.
 - 4. Appeal Process: Individuals who believe that the disciplinary action was unjust or unfair may have the right to appeal. The appeal process will involve a review by the RSAC, Rescue Chief, or the Director, and the decision will be communicated to the individual in a timely manner. The individual in violation shall be entitled to file a grievance and be heard through the RSAC if the individual decides to appeal the decision.
 - 5. Documentation: All instances of policy violations and corresponding disciplinary actions will be documented in the individual's personnel or volunteer file. This documentation will be used to track patterns of behavior and determine appropriate actions in case of future violations.
 - 6. Confidentiality: The process of addressing violations and administering disciplinary actions will be conducted with due respect for the privacy of the individuals involved. Information related to disciplinary actions will be shared on a need-to-know basis.
 - 7. Training and Prevention: OCES will continuously provide training and education to prevent policy violations. This will include regular reminders of the social media policy and its importance in maintaining the organization's reputation.
 - 8. Policy Review: This discipline policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness in maintaining a responsible online presence for OCES and addressing policy violations appropriately.
- By establishing clear disciplinary measures for violations of the OCES Social Media Policy, we aim to maintain a positive and professional online image while promoting accountability and responsible behavior among all representatives.

INDEX

A		H	
Annual inventory	17	Harassment	2, 5
Appeal	22		
Application for Membership	12, 23	I	
Application Procedure	2, 12, 23	Incentive	19, 20, 25
Appointment Procedures	24		
Assistant Rescue Coordinator Position	23	M	
Authority	4, 23	Member	2, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 24, 26, 42, 45, 46, 58, 59
Authorized Rescue Squads	2, 8, 24	mission	4
		Monthly	19, 24
C			
Chaplains	10	O	
Chief	4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 32, 33, 34, 42, 47, 50, 54, 55, 58	OCES	4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58
Command	6, 7, 9, 17, 24, 56	Organization Chart	2, 5, 24
Command Staff	6, 7, 9, 24, 56		
Communication, Rescue Squad	24	P	
Confidentiality and Privacy	20	Policy	3, 20, 21, 22, 41, 53, 58
Conflict of Interest	20	Positions	2, 6, 16, 18, 24, 25
Coordinators	7	probation	13, 16, 18
Core Values	2, 4, 24		
County	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 32, 33, 41, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58	Q	
County Level Volunteer Staff	6, 7, 24	Qualifications	2, 7, 12, 18, 24
		Quarterly	19, 24
D			
Director	4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 32, 48	R	
disciplinary	6, 21, 22, 31, 53, 54, 55, 56	Requirements	2, 12, 13, 18, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 33, 34
Dive Team Responder	24	Rescue Coordinators	24
Diver, Roles & Responsibilities	24	Rescue Squad Advisory Commission	4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 24
Documentation	22	Responder	2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, 32, 41, 46
Drug	19	Responsibilities	2, 6, 9, 12, 17, 24, 25
		Roles	2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 24, 25
E		RSAC	4, 6, 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22
Elections	2, 17, 24	S	
Emergency Management	2, 4, 5, 24	SC Firefighter Association	26
employees	6, 20, 21	SC VIP Tax Deduction	25
EMR	9, 15, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 42	social media	20, 21, 22
Enforcement	12, 21	Staff	6, 7, 16, 24, 25, 56
		Suspension	22
F			
FUNCTIONS	2, 5		
G			
Guidelines	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 20, 25, 26, 37, 43, 47, 48, 49		

				26
	T	Verbal violation		6, 22
		Volunteer		22, 56
Tender, Roles & Responsibilities	24			6, 7, 8, 19, 20, 24, 25
Termination	22			
Training	9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 41, 42, 56		W	
Transfer	2, 16, 25	Warning		22, 50, 51, 55
		Written		22, 34, 36, 37
	V			
Vehicles	19, 24, 50, 53, 54, 55			

ADDENDUM

1. Follow Oconee County approved BLS provider requirements. (HSI)
2. New Member Checklist
3. OCES Junior Firefighter Program
4. SC Firefighter Association Junior Members Guidelines
5. Oconee Rescue Chiefs Association By Laws
6. **County-Issued Identification Badge Policy**

2.



OCCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

415 SOUTH PINE STREET WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29691

PHONE (864) 638-4200

FAX (864) 638-7046

Probationary Phase Completion

Phase I: Initial Phase

	Date	Initials
• Oconee County Human Resource Application (<i>online</i>)		
• Departmental Voting		
• Physical (<i>Upstate Medical Associates/North Greenville Fitness</i>)		
• AHA BLS CPR		
• OCES ID		

*****RESPONDER(S) ABLE TO RUN CALLS WITH ANOTHER RESPONDER*****

Phase II: Operations

	Date	Initials
• OCES SOG's/SOP's		
• Patient Care Protocols (<i>dept. training officer</i>)		
• Radiological Training (<i>in-person within the first year</i>)		
• Emergency Vehicle Response Awareness (<i>online SCFA</i>) ➤ OCES POV Response Policy 03.04.03		
• ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 (<i>online</i>)		
• General Radio Operations (<i>dept. training officer</i>)		
• Scene and Stretcher Safety (<i>stretcher demonstration awareness</i>)		
• Landing Zone Awareness (<i>dept. training officer</i>)		
• District Familiarization (<i>dept. training officer</i>)		
• Emergency Medical Responder (<i>upon class availability</i>)		

Phase III: Internet Platforms

Date

Initials

● Emergency Reporting ○ Login and Password ○ Generalized Call Input/Patient Care Report ○ Maintenance Request(s)	
● Action Training ○ Login and Password ○ Training Schedule and Completion	

Phase IV: In-service and Training

	Date	Initials
● EMR/EMT CEP Program familiarization		
● Certifications sent to OCES Administration		
● NREMT Account for Basic EMT or Higher (<i>agency affiliation</i>)		

Member's probationary period can be extended at the Department Chief or EMS Chief's discretion.

3.

Oconee County Emergency Services			
Administrative Policy			
	SUBJECT: Junior Firefighter Program		SOG 230.00
	Category: General Operations	Effective Date: 12/20/2023	Revision:
	Applicable: All Responders	Rescinds:	
Relevant Standard/Statute/Ordinance: Future Volunteer Firefighters Act 159 of South Carolina, SC Code of Laws section 41-21-110		Issued by: Scott Krein, Director 	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to establish the Junior Firefighter Program guidelines for volunteer departments within Oconee County Emergency Services. Oconee County Emergency Services utilizes the Junior Firefighter Program Guidelines provided by the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association as the guidance for this policy.

POLICY:**I. Junior Membership**

- Each County Fire or Rescue Department has the option of recruiting and adding junior members to their department.
- **Junior Members** are defined as members between the ages of 14-18 years old only. No members under the age of 14 are allowed to be a part of a County Fire or Rescue Department. These members will be active members of the fire or rescue department, but have strict limitations on their training and incident response activities. These limitations are in place to ensure compliance with state and federal labor laws.
- Junior members shall be separated into two groups:
 - minors 16 and 17 years of age;
 - minors 14 and 15 years of age.
- Oconee County Emergency Services Fire & Rescue Departments shall make sure their By-Laws, Constitution, Charter reflect the proper authority to have junior members on their roster.
- Junior members must be listed on the department roster that is turned in quarterly to Oconee County Emergency Services, and labeled as Junior Firefighters.
- Oconee County Workers Compensation will cover junior members listed on department roster in the same way other members on the department roster are covered.
- Fire and rescue departments shall take the necessary precautions to ensure adequate supervision for male and female junior members. At no time, shall there be a one-on-one situation with fire/rescue member and junior member.
 - Each department that has junior members must appoint department representative(s) to be responsible for junior membership. These representatives shall complete and provide documentation of Youth Protection Training. One

such sources for this training is provided through the Boy Scouts of America. Information can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

- A background check will not be required for junior members
- Prior to training or response to any call, junior members will be required to undergo a medical physical.
- Fire & Rescue Departments should encourage parental involvement in the program.
- Junior members are eligible for membership in SC State Firefighters' Association just as regular department members with full benefits.

II. General Restrictions

- In general, the following guidelines shall be followed to restrict the activities of Junior Members. When not specifically listed or discussed, all activities should be limited to those considered non-emergency.
- The restrictions have been reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Registration legal counsel, and appear to be in compliance with all applicable state and federal child labor laws.
 - Junior Members shall not be substituted for trained personnel.
 - Junior Members shall be equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment to accomplish the assigned tasks.
 - Junior Members who ride on apparatus or other department vehicles shall be seated and must wear a seat belt.
 - Junior Members shall not drive department vehicles.
 - Junior Members shall not enter or perform ventilation procedures on a burning structure.
 - Junior Members shall not use any tools or gloves on energized electrical equipment.
 - The junior members shall be clearly marked in order to easily identify them from a distance.
 - This may be accomplished by using orange colored helmets.

III. Guidelines for Minors 16 & 17 Years of Age

A. Minors who are 16 & 17 MAY

- Ride as a passenger in the cab of a fire truck or in a rescue vehicle. The Junior shall be seated with his/her seat belt securely fastened.
- Attend and take part in supervised training to include SC Fire Academy courses found on the approved course list jointly developed by the SC Fire Academy and the SC State Firefighters' Association, and local training events as supervised and approved by the Fire Chief.
 - To attend SC Fire Academy training the "South Carolina Fire Academy Junior Member Program Registration Form" must be completed. The form is found below.

- Participate in department functions within the rehabilitation area of an emergency scene. This could include setting up the engine or light truck, assisting in water supply efforts, handling of wood and other technical rescue materials, and other support functions, which do not expose the junior member to hazardous areas or atmospheres.
- Pick up hoses or other materials and clean up at the emergency scene after it has been declared safe by the Incident Commander.
- Enter a structure only when accompanied by an adult responder once the structure has been determined safe by the Incident Commander and not considered immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
- Perform search and rescue activities, other than structural firefighting, high level, or in other areas considered dangerous or IDLH.
- Operate a fire pump or equipment located outside the danger zone at the directions of the Incident Commander.
- Use pressurized hose lines, if properly trained, under the direction of an Incident Commander and out of the danger area.

B. Minors who are 16 and 17 MAY NOT:

- Perform fire suppression involving structures, vehicles, or wildland fires per federal child labor guidelines 29 CFR 570.54.
- Perform high level, confined space, collapse rescue, or any rescue operation that places them in danger or areas of IDLH.
- Drive fire department or rescue vehicles.
- Perform firefighting “overhaul” activities (except when the structure has been declared safe by the Incident Commander and then only with an adult firefighter).
- Respond to a Hazardous Materials event (except for support functions within the cold zone).
- Participate or assist in any extrication activities at the scene of an accident or emergency (except in the capacity of a support function).
- Participate in any activities at the scene of an accident or emergency where fire or hazardous materials are involved unless they are performing support functions from outside the danger area.
- Participate in actual “ice rescue” activities but may provide assistance within any designated rehabilitation area or as a support member on dry land only.
- Direct traffic at the scene of a fire or other emergency.
- Train on departmental equipment or remove equipment from an apparatus unless under the supervision of an instructor.
- Youth under 18 years of age who are enrolled in school in Grade 12 or below may not be employed between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. when there is school for the youth the next day. Sixteen and Seventeen (16 and 17) year old youths may get the hour restriction waived upon written permission from the parent/guardian and from the youth’s school principal/designee.
- Youth under 18 years of age who are enrolled in school in Grade 12 or below may not respond, in a non-emergency mode, to calls during school hours.
- Stand on any fire apparatus at anytime it is in motion.

IV. Guidelines for Minors Age 14 and 15 Years of Age

In addition to those restriction listed for 16- and 17-year-olds, the following are additional restrictions for minors aged 14 and 15 years old.

A. Minors who are 14 and 15 years of age and younger MAY NOT:

- Perform any hazardous duties at the fire station.
- Ride in the cab of the fire apparatus responding to an emergency scene.
- Stand on any fire apparatus at any time it is in motion.

V. SC Code of Laws

Section 41-21-110. (A) The Director of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, in cooperation with the State Firefighters Association, may establish a junior firefighters program, consistent with all applicable state and federal child labor laws, for the purpose of encouraging, educating, and training qualified youth to enter the fire service as a career. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, qualified youth under eighteen years of age shall be allowed to participate in training activities offered by local fire departments, the Office of the State Fire Marshall, and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. As used in this subsection, the term 'qualified youth' means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who is between fourteen and eighteen years of age.

Attachment 6.2
Page 1 of 2

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY JUNIOR MEMBER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Course Code- Section Number _____	Course Title _____	Date _____	Location _____
Social Security Number _____ Male _____ Female _____		*Date of birth: _____	Age _____
* This applicant must be at least 16 years of age to enroll in the course.			
Minor's Last Name _____	First Name: _____	Initial: _____	
Mailing Address _____		email: _____	
City: _____	SC _____	Zip: _____	County _____
Daytime Phone/Work: _____		Home Phone _____	
Department name: _____			
FDID: _____ Dept. Phone _____			

Parental Statements / Release / Authorization

Junior Member participants in the South Carolina Fire Academy courses must be at least 16 years of age. The Junior Member must read and sign this form where indicated. A parent or legal guardian must review and sign this form in the designated areas. The Department Chief of this Junior Member must sign this form also.

The South Carolina Fire Academy is authorizing the above applicant, who is at least 16 years of age and a registered participant of a Junior Member Program, to participate in a SCFA Course. The course certificate is not valid until the Junior member's eighteenth (18th) birthday.

In consideration for participation in South Carolina Fire Academy training, I hereby release, indemnify, and covenant not to sue the South Carolina Fire Academy, S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the State of South Carolina, their officers, agents or employees (Releasees), as well as any other students or instructors, from any liability, claims, cost and causes of action arising out of, or related to, any property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by this minor while participating in such activity, or while on the premises owned, leased or used by Releasees.

I acknowledge the training involves physical and strenuous activities in which the minor is capable of fully participating. I know of no heart disease, epilepsy, emphysema, lung disease or other physical or mental condition that would preclude the minor from full participation in this training. I understand that the nature of the tasks the minor will have to perform while involved in this training may require a high degree of physical fitness, agility, and dexterity, and that this may include rigorous exercises which requires physical fitness, strength and stamina while wearing full protective clothing and a self-contained breathing apparatus. I am fully aware of the risks and hazards associated with fire and rescue training, including, but not limited to, burns, heat stroke, heart attack, heat exhaustion, falls, and other related injuries, and I choose to voluntarily allow this minor to participate in the activity with full knowledge that said activity may be hazardous to the minor and their property. I verify that my minor child has had a medical evaluation by a physician or other licensed health care professional within six (6) months of the course start date that meets the requirements of OSHA 1910.156 for fire brigades and 1910.134 for wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus. By my signature below as parent/guardian I verify insurance coverage and accept responsibility for all related medical charges.

Attachment 6.2
Page 2 of 2

I certify the information on this registration form is correct. The Junior Member (minor) agrees to abide by the rules, policies, and regulations of the South Carolina Fire Academy. I understand that falsifying information or violating rules or procedures may result in the minor being dismissed from, or denied admission to, the course and/or loss of course credit.

I authorize the release of any information concerning the minor's enrollment and completion of this South Carolina Fire Academy course to the minor, the parent/guardian, the chief or the training officer of the Junior Member fire department.

I hereby give permission to the staff of South Carolina Fire Academy to release records necessary for insurance purposes and, emergency care for continuity of care. I also give permission for the staff of the South Carolina Fire Academy to provide, or arrange, necessary related treatment or transportation for my minor child. In the event that the listed emergency contact persons cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission for South Carolina Fire Academy personnel to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization for the participant named above. I further understand that I will be responsible for any medical/hospital bills. Because this minor child is not an employee of the Fire Academy they are not provided worker's compensation coverage thru the Fire Academy. It is up to the Junior Member department to provide workers compensation or other insurance. Any and all injuries or illness, no matter how minor, shall be reported to the course instructor immediately, who will have the final say in selecting the treatment disposition for the participant. This may range from on-site treatment, to ambulance transportation to a local hospital emergency department or doctor's office. **I understand that the South Carolina Fire Academy is not authorized to provide travel, medical, health or worker's compensation insurance.**

By registering this minor for this course, I hereby give the South Carolina Fire Academy permission to reproduce and publish his/her name and/or photographic likeness.

I give permission to the South Carolina Fire Academy to allow my minor child (Junior Firefighter) to participate in this fire training. I have read the above information and understand the serious nature of this training and agree that my minor child may participate.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Print Name of Parent/Guardian Date

Emergency Contact Numbers of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Minor Applicant Print Name of Minor Applicant Date

By signature of the Chief, I acknowledge this minor applicant is a valid Junior Member with the department listed above. Also as Chief, I understand that this training is not valid until this minor is 18 years of age. I understand I must ensure compliance with Child Labor Regulations

Signature of Chief Print Name of Chief Date

Registration Use only	Received From	
Check # _____		Refund amount \$ _____
P/O # _____		Reason: _____
Payment Amount \$ _____		

Attachment 6.3
Page 1 of 1

Courses Approved for 16 and 17 Year Old Learning for Life Explorers and Junior Member Training

Course	Title	Prerequisite:
1152	Fundamentals of Firefighting	None
1136	Flammable Liquid/Gas Firefighting	1152
2722	Hazardous Materials: Operations	1152
*2727	Hazardous Materials Awareness	1152 preferred
*2728	Hazardous Materials Operations	2727, 1152 preferred
1153	NFPA Firefighter I	1152, 1136, 2722, CPR/First Aid
3330	Basic Auto Extrication	1152 preferred
1154	NFPA Firefighter II	1153, 3330
3310	Rope Rescue Low Angel Operations	1152 preferred
1139	Rescuing the Rescuer	1152, 1154 preferred
1140	Rapid Intervention Crew	1139
1160	Truck Company and Support Operations	1154 preferred
1176	Pipeline Emergencies	1152 preferred
1177	Responding to Utility Emergencies	1152 preferred
8118	Positive Pressure Ventilation	1152 preferred
8335	Intro to Wildland/Urban Interface	1152 preferred
1205	PO Vehicles Emergency Response	1152 preferred
2113	FSS: Increasing Personnel Effectiveness	1152 preferred
2114	FSS: Increasing Team Effectiveness	1152 preferred
2130	Building Construction: Noncombustible	1152 preferred
2132	Building Construction: Combustible.	1152 preferred
2147	NIMS: ICS for the Fire Service	1152 preferred
2172	Leadership II: Personal Success	1152 preferred
2139	Intro to Fire Inspection Principles	None
2751	Emergency Response to Terrorism Basic Concepts	1152 and 2722 preferred
8511	SC Fire Incident Reporting System	None
8520	Spray It Forward	None

NOTE

- It is recommended that the Junior Member/Explorer complete the 1152 course before attending any of these courses that do not require 1152 as a prerequisite.
- It is recommended that the Junior Member/Explorer complete the 2147 course prior to taking any of the 2000 level courses.
- Additional special courses not listed above may be offered to Junior Members/Explorers subject to Fire Academy management approval.

*These courses will not be available until July 1, 2011.



OCONEE COUNTY JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

Parent/Guardian Consent Form

(To be filed with OCES Administrative Office prior to participating in approved OCES and or SC Fire Academy training courses)

Please review and complete the information below. Sign your name/date with a daytime telephone number and forward this original document to the Oconee County Emergency Services Administrative Office prior to your son/daughter participating in any approved OCES and or SC Fire Academy training course. Participation in any OCES or SCFA training will be denied until this form is completed, and reviewed by OCES.

Junior Firefighter Name _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Participating Fire Department: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____, hereby

certify that We/I am the parent(s) and/or lawful guardian(s) of _____, Date of Birth _____.

We/I FULLY UNDERSTAND that the occupation of Firefighting has been declared a hazardous activity and will instruct the Minor that: (a) THE ACTIVITIES OF FIREFIGHTING ARE DANGEROUS and participating in these courses involve POTENTIAL RISKS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, AND DEATH as a result of falls from ladders, bodily burns and excessive smoke inhalation; (b) these risks and dangers may be caused by the Minor's own actions or inaction, the actions or inaction of others participating in the training program; (c) there may be OTHER RISKS NOT KNOWN TO US or that are not readily foreseeable at this time.

We/ I consent to the Minor's participation in the approved firefighting training activities and HEREBY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, AND ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY NOT CURRENTLY COVERED BY LOCALITY PERSONAL LIABILITY OR WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

We/ I further understand that Oconee County Emergency Services furnishes qualified instructors for each course which are authorized to exercise judgment and discretion in the performance of their duties while training a firefighter in the County of Oconee in the State of South Carolina to protect the lives and properties of their communities. We / I also understand in consideration for participation in any OCES training, I hereby release, indemnify, and covenant not to sue any Oconee County Emergency Services, the County of Oconee, the South Carolina Fire Academy, S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the State of South Carolina, their officers, agents or employees (Releasees), as well as any other students or instructors, from any liability, claims, cost and causes of action arising out of, or related to, any property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by this minor while participating in such activity, or while on the premises owned, leased or used by Releasees.

WE/ I HAVE READ THIS PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM. We/ I the undersigned, having read, understood and completed the above, and having been briefed regarding the nature of activities the Minor will be participating in, hereby give our/ my permission for my child/ward to attend and participate fully in all activities.

My parent(s) or legal guardian and I have read this form and thoroughly understand the potential dangers involved with firefighting activities.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____	Signature of Parent/Guardian _____	Date _____
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Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____	Signature of Parent/Guardian _____	Date _____
---------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____	Signature of Parent/Guardian _____	Date _____
---------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------

Parent/Guardian daytime contact telephone number _____

5.

OCONEE COUNTY RESCUE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Adopted: _____

Effective: _____

Last Amended: _____

ARTICLE I. NAME AND AUTHORITY

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization is the Oconee County Rescue Chiefs Association (the "Association").

Section 2. Authority and Relationship to Oconee County

The Association is a collaborative body of Oconee County rescue and emergency medical response leadership established to coordinate operational issues of common concern, promote interoperability, and provide a unified voice to Oconee County Emergency Services ("OCES") and other County stakeholders.

Nothing in these Bylaws supersedes applicable federal, state, or local law, County ordinance, or OCES policy. Where a conflict exists, the controlling legal authority or policy prevails.

Section 3. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or applicable law.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Association is to provide leadership, coordination, education, and representation to better serve the residents and visitors of Oconee County through efficient, safe, and effective rescue and emergency medical services.

Section 2. Objectives

The Association's objectives include, but are not limited to:

- Promote countywide interoperability and operational coordination among rescue squads and partner agencies.
- Support standardized training, credentialing, and competency development.
- Facilitate information sharing on apparatus, equipment, communications, and response capabilities.
- Provide input to OCES and the Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission ("Rescue Commission") on matters affecting rescue services.
- Advance responder safety, professionalism, and ethical conduct.
- Support continuous improvement through after-action learning and planning.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes of Membership

Membership is organizational in nature and represented by each eligible rescue squad/agency through its designated representative(s). Membership classes are:

- **Active Members:** The Chief or Assistant Chief (or equivalent command officer) of an Oconee County rescue squad/agency that provides emergency medical and/or rescue response within the County.

- Delegate: A person designated in writing by an Active Member to attend and vote on behalf of that member's squad/agency when the Active Member is unavailable.
- Ex Officio (Non-Voting) Members: The OCES Deputy Chief of Rescue (or designee) and other County staff invited to support coordination. Ex officio members may participate in discussion but do not vote unless also serving as an Active Member or Delegate.

Section 2. Eligibility and Good Standing

To be in good standing, an Active Member must:

- Remain in an eligible command role within a County rescue squad/agency.
- Maintain current contact information with the Secretary.
- Meet reasonable participation expectations as described in these Bylaws.
- Uphold the ethical and professional standards of the Association.

Section 3. Attendance Expectations

Because the Association's effectiveness depends on participation, Active Members or Delegates should attend all scheduled meetings when possible. Repeated non-participation may be addressed by the Executive Committee through outreach and corrective action planning in coordination with OCES, as appropriate.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Association shall meet monthly on the first Thursday at 6:00 p.m., unless adjusted by the Association due to holidays, operational needs, or severe weather.

Meetings will ordinarily be held at the Oconee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Walhalla, South Carolina, or such other location as announced by the Chair.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or upon written request of at least one-third (1/3) of the Active Members.

Notice of a special meeting shall include the purpose and proposed agenda and be provided at least seven (7) days in advance when practicable.

Section 3. Remote Participation

Members may participate by telephone or video conference when in-person attendance is impracticable, provided the means of participation allows members to hear and be heard contemporaneously. Remote participants count toward quorum.

Section 4. Agenda, Minutes, and Order of Business

The Chair shall publish an agenda to be handed out at the beginning of the meeting and published in advance when practicable. The Chair shall conduct the meeting. The Secretary shall record minutes reflecting attendance, motions, votes, and action items.

The order of business at regular meetings will include:

- Call to order

- Review and approval of prior meeting minutes
- Squad updates
- OCES Deputy Chief of Rescue comments
- Training information/updates
- Vehicle information/updates
- Radio communications information/updates
- Old business
- New business
- Adjournment

Meeting decorum shall be professional. The Chair may rule discussion out of order when it becomes repetitive, personal, or unrelated to Association business.

Section 5. Guests and Executive Session

The Chair may invite subject matter experts or stakeholders to present on specific topics.

When sensitive operational, security, or personnel matters arise, the Chair may call for an executive session limited to Active Members, Delegates, and invited OCES leadership.

ARTICLE V. QUORUM

Section 1. Definition of Quorum

A quorum to conduct business shall consist of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the Active Members (represented either by the Active Member or their Delegate).

Section 2. Lack of Quorum

If a quorum is not present, the meeting may proceed for discussion and information sharing; however, no binding vote on matters affecting the Association shall be conducted.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Association are: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

In alignment with current County coordination practices, the Association will elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary from among the Active Members by majority vote.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

- Chair: Presides at meetings; sets agendas with input from members; represents the Association in coordination with OCES; appoints committee members unless otherwise specified.
- Vice Chair: Assists the Chair and presides in the Chair's absence.
- Secretary: Maintains membership roster; records and distributes minutes; maintains official records; manages notices for meetings and amendments.

Section 3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the officers and the immediate Past Chair (if an Active Member). If the immediate Past Chair is not an Active Member, then the next Past Chair that is still an Active Member fills this roll. The Executive Committee may conduct administrative business between meetings and shall report material actions to the membership at the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Vacancies and Removal

Vacancies may be filled for the unexpired term by majority vote at a regular meeting.

An officer may be removed for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Members present and voting at a meeting with quorum, provided the officer has been given at least fourteen (14) days' notice and an opportunity to be heard.

ARTICLE VII. VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Voting Rights

Each Squad shall have one (1) vote on any matter before the Association. All voting will be by either roll call or written ballot as determined by the Chair.

Section 2. Decision Thresholds

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, actions are approved by a simple majority of votes cast at a meeting with quorum.

Section 3. Elections and Terms

The Association elects a Chair from among Active Members, officers are elected annually at the first regular meeting of the calendar year by majority vote. Officers serve one-year terms and may be re-elected.

Section 4. Electronic Voting Between Meetings

Between meetings, the Chair may call for an electronic vote (email or other agreed platform) when time-sensitive action is required.

Electronic votes require: (a) a defined voting window of not less than seventy-two (72) hours; (b) confirmation of voter identity; and (c) documentation of the result in the next meeting minutes.

Electronic votes are valid only if a quorum of Active Members participates.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Working in conjunction with the Rescue Commission and OCES, the Association shall maintain the following standing committees. Each committee will have at least two (2) members appointed by the Chair unless otherwise directed by the membership:

- Planning and Goals Committee: Develops and reviews countywide plans, strategic goals, and improvement initiatives and brings recommendations to the Association.
- Training Committee: Identifies training needs; reviews available courses and resources; recommends training priorities and opportunities to the Association.

- Standards Committee: Reviews and recommends operational and equipment standards or guidelines to support consistency and interoperability across squads.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees

The Chair may create ad hoc committees or work groups as needed to address specific issues. Ad hoc committees dissolve upon completion of their assigned work unless extended by the membership.

Section 3. Committee Reporting

Committees shall provide updates at regular meetings and submit written recommendations when requesting Association action.

ARTICLE X. RESCUE COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. Authority and Alignment to County Ordinance

In accordance with Oconee County ordinance governing the Rescue Commission, the Rescue Squad Chiefs shall appoint two (2) commissioners annually to serve on the Rescue Commission.

These Bylaws establish a transparent process for the Association to identify, vet, and select appointees. Where the ordinance or County policy prescribes requirements that differ from these Bylaws, the ordinance or policy controls.

Section 2. Eligibility

Appointees must be eligible under the County ordinance and any applicable County requirements. Unless otherwise permitted by the ordinance, appointees should be an Active Member from the Association in good standing.

The Association shall designate one of the two appointments to be the OCES Medical Director or Assistant Medical Director when permitted by ordinance and accepted by the County.

Section 3. Nomination and Selection Process

- At least sixty (60) days prior to the annual appointment date (or as otherwise required by the County), the Chair shall solicit nominations from the Active Members.
- Nominations shall include the nominee's name, affiliation, qualifications, and confirmation of willingness to serve.
- The Association shall select appointees by written ballot or roll call vote at a meeting with quorum. The two nominees receiving the highest number of votes are selected, subject to eligibility verification.

Section 4. Notification and Records

The Secretary shall document the appointment vote in the minutes and provide written notification of the selected appointees to OCES Deputy Chief of Recue and the appropriate County official as required.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposal and Notice

The Association shall have the power to amend these Bylaws at any regular meeting, provided that proposed amendments are submitted to the Secretary and Chair more than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and are presented to the membership at the regularly scheduled meeting prior to the vote.

Section 2. Approval Threshold

Amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Active Members present and voting at a meeting with quorum.

ARTICLE XII. ETHICS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND NONDISCRIMINATION

Section 1. Ethical Standards

Members shall conduct Association business with integrity and professionalism and avoid actions that would discredit the rescue services of Oconee County.

Section 2. Conflict of Interest

A member with a material financial interest in a matter before the Association shall disclose the conflict and shall abstain from voting on that matter.

Section 3. Nondiscrimination

The Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other status protected by applicable law.

Section 4. Political Activity

The Association shall not endorse candidates for political office and shall keep partisan political activity out of Association meetings. Members may advocate on policy issues relevant to rescue services when such advocacy is approved by the membership.

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Dissolution

This Association may be dissolved only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Members at a regularly scheduled meeting held thirty (30) days after notice of a dissolution motion has been given to the membership at the previous regular meeting.

Upon dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed in accordance with applicable law and any conditions attached to donated funds, and otherwise as determined by the Executive Committee.

6.



OCCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

415 SOUTH PINE STREET WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29691

PHONE (864) 638-4200

FAX (864) 638-7046

COUNTY-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION BADGE POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent requirements for the issuance, possession, display, use, security, and return of identification badges issued by Oconee County Emergency Services to Rescue Squad Members, Responders, officers, staff, and other authorized personnel.

County-issued identification badges remain the property of Oconee County and are issued solely for official identification and authorized emergency-service purposes.

2. Issuance

A county-issued identification badge may be issued only after the individual has:

- Been accepted by an authorized Rescue Squad
- Completed the required Oconee County Human Resources onboarding process
- Completed Physical
- Received approval from the Rescue Squad Chief and EMS Director; and
- Completed any additional documentation required by OCES.

Identification badges shall accurately reflect the individual's name, photograph, agency affiliation, membership status, and any other information required by OCES.

3. Authorized Use

County-issued identification badges shall be used only for legitimate OCES or Rescue Squad business, including:

- Identification at emergency scenes;
- Entry into authorized OCES facilities or restricted areas;
- Training, meetings, public-safety events, or official functions;
- Verification of membership or responder status when requested by law enforcement, emergency-services personnel, county officials, or other authorized persons; and
- Other duties approved by the Rescue Squad Chief, EMS Director, or designee.

Possession of an identification badge does not independently grant authority to enter private property, restricted areas, emergency scenes, or county facilities without an official purpose or proper authorization.

4. Display of Identification Badge

Personnel shall carry their county-issued identification badge while:

- Responding to or operating at emergency incidents;

- Participating in official OCES or Rescue Squad activities;
- Operating county-owned vehicles;
- Entering restricted OCES facilities or areas; or
- Representing OCES or an authorized Rescue Squad in an official capacity.

The badge shall be displayed when requested by an authorized county official, law-enforcement officer, incident commander, OCES staff member, or Rescue Squad officer.

Personnel shall not be required to openly display the badge when doing so would create a safety concern, interfere with personal protective equipment, or be inappropriate for the assignment. The badge must remain reasonably accessible for identification.

5. Prohibited Uses

County-issued identification badges shall not be used:

- For privileges not officially authorized;
- To avoid or influence traffic enforcement, criminal investigation, civil enforcement, or other governmental action;
- To imply law-enforcement authority;
- To gain unauthorized access to an emergency scene, restricted location, medical facility, public event, or private property;
- While engaging in political activity, private employment, fundraising not approved by the Rescue Squad, or other non-OCES activity in a manner that implies county endorsement;
- After suspension, resignation, termination, expiration, or removal from active status; or
- In any manner that could bring discredit upon OCES, Oconee County, or an authorized Rescue Squad.

Personnel shall not post photographs of the front or back of an identification badge on social media or other public platforms when identifying numbers, barcodes, access credentials, or other security information are visible.

6. Badge Security

Each individual is responsible for protecting their badge from loss, theft, damage, duplication, or unauthorized use. Badges may not be altered, duplicated, reproduced, photographed for improper use, or transferred to another person.

Badges shall not be:

- Loaned to another person;
- Left unattended in an unsecured public location;
- Stored in a manner that allows unauthorized access; or
- Used by anyone other than the person to whom the badge was issued.

7. Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Badges

A lost, stolen, damaged, or compromised badge shall be reported immediately to the individual's Rescue Squad Chief and the EMS Director or designee.

The report shall include:

- The approximate date and location of the loss or theft;
- The circumstances surrounding the incident;
- Whether unauthorized use is suspected; and
- Any law-enforcement report number, when applicable.

OCES shall deactivate or cancel the badge and issue a replacement when appropriate.

The individual may be responsible for replacement costs when the badge was lost or damaged due to negligence, repeated loss, or unauthorized use, as determined by OCES.

8. Change in Status

Personnel shall notify OCES when information appearing on the badge changes, including:

- Name;
- Agency affiliation;
- Membership category;
- Rank or official position; or
- Responder status.
- Physical level and expiration date

A new badge shall be issued upon expiration date.

A change in rank or position does not authorize an individual to continue using an outdated badge when directed to return it.

9. Suspension or Inactive Status

Personnel who are temporarily prohibited from responding, placed on suspension, or otherwise restricted may be required to surrender their badge to the Rescue Squad Chief, EMS Director or designee.

The Rescue Squad Chief, EMS Director or designee may deactivate badge access during any suspension, leave, investigation, or period of inactive status.

The badge shall be returned or reactivated after the individual is restored to authorized status.

10. Return of Badge

County-issued identification badges shall be returned within seven calendar days following:

- Resignation;
- Termination;
- Removal from the Rescue Squad roster;
- Transfer when a replacement badge is required;
- Expiration of authorized affiliation;
- Request by the Rescue Squad Chief, EMS Director or designee; or
- Any other change that ends the individual's authority to possess the badge.

Rescue Squad Chiefs shall make reasonable efforts to collect badges from individuals who are no longer authorized to possess them.

Failure to return a badge may result in disciplinary action, withholding of replacement credentials, notification to law enforcement, or other action deemed appropriate by the Rescue Squad Chief, EMS Director or designee.

11. Misuse and Discipline

Misuse of a county-issued identification badge may result in disciplinary action, including:

- Verbal or written warning;
- Suspension of badge privileges;
- Suspension from responding;
- Removal from office or assigned duties;
- Removal from the Rescue Squad roster; or
- Referral to law enforcement when criminal misuse is suspected.

Disciplinary action shall be based on the seriousness of the violation, prior violations, intent, and the effect of conduct on public trust and OCES operations.

Any appeal or grievance shall be handled in accordance with the applicable OCES SOGs and Rescue Squad Advisory Commission grievance procedures.

12. Responsibility

The **Emergency Management Division** shall oversee the badge system and may establish additional administrative or security requirements.

Rescue Squad Chiefs are responsible for:

- Verifying which members are authorized to possess badges;
- Promptly reporting membership or status changes;
- Assisting with the collection of expired or unauthorized badges; and
- Reporting suspected misuse to OCES.

Each badge holder is individually responsible for complying with this policy.

Appendix

In operation

1. Emergency Vehicle Response Emergency Vehicle Response, SOG 04.04.01
2. Personal Vehicle Response, SOG 04.04.02
3. POV Emergency Response, S.O.G. 04.04.03
4. Prisma Clinical Operating Guidelines

OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES		STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
Subject: Emergency Vehicle Response	SOG: 04.04.01	Page 1 of 4
Category: Vehicles	Rescinds: None	
Approved by: Scott Krein, Rescue Chief	Revision: 2	Effective Date: 11/01/11

PURPOSE:

Responding to any emergency call, Oconee County Emergency Services places a great deal of responsibility on the drivers of our emergency vehicles. Not only must emergency vehicle drivers provide prompt conveyance of the apparatus, equipment, and personnel to provide service to Persons in need, but as importantly, must accomplish this task in the safest and most prudent manner possible. Emergency vehicle drivers have in their care, custody and control most of the major assets possessed by this organization (the vehicle, portable equipment, personnel). Emergency vehicle drivers also have a higher standard of care to provide to the general motoring public and must make every attempt possible to provide due regard for the safety of others. Drivers must constantly monitor and reduce the amount of risk and exposure to potential losses during each and every response. Safe arrival at the emergency scene shall be, and must always remain, the first priority of all emergency vehicle drivers. In order to accomplish this enormous task all emergency vehicle drivers shall become familiar with, and constantly abide by the following policies and procedures.

SCOPE:

All personnel

PROCEDURES:

1. Circle of Safety:

Prior to entering the cab and starting the vehicle, the emergency vehicle driver shall make a circle of safety around the vehicle to see that all equipment is secured, that all compartment doors are securely closed and any physical obstructions moved out of the way. During the circle of safety the emergency vehicle driver shall encircle the vehicle and visually inspect all four (4) sides and the top of the vehicle before entering the cab. He/She should also verify right side and rear clearance with the person riding in the officer position (if available). This shall be conducted prior to moving the vehicle regardless of whether or not the vehicle is about to leave on an emergency or a non-emergency (on scene or off scene).

2. Warning Devices and True Emergencies:

When responding to a true emergency (**a situation in which there is a high probability of death or serious injury to an individual or significant property loss, and your actions may reduce the seriousness of the situation**) all audible and visual warning devices will be operated at all times

regardless of time of day and or traffic conditions. All emergency vehicle drivers must understand that warning devices are not always effective in making other vehicle operators aware of your presence.

Warning devices only request the right-of-way, they do not ensure the right-of-way.

Subject: Emergency Vehicle Response	SOG: 04.04.01	Page: 2

3. Vehicle Control and Right-of-Way:

All drivers shall attempt to maintain control of the vehicle that they are operating in such a manner as to provide the maximum level of safety for both their passengers and the general public. Emergency vehicle drivers should be aware that the civilian vehicle operators may not react in the manner in which is expected or felt to be appropriate. An attempt should be made to have options available when passing or overtaking vehicles. If another vehicle operator fails to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, the emergency vehicle driver cannot force the right of way, nor can you assume the right-of-way, therefore you do not have the right-of-way until the other vehicle yields to you. The emergency vehicle driver shall be aware of his/her rate of closure on other vehicles or a pedestrian at all times to make sure that a safe following is established and maintained. All drivers shall follow the rule for safe following distance and allow one (1) second of following distance for every ten (10) feet of vehicle length for speeds under forty (40) miles per hour and add one (1) additional second for speeds over forty (40) miles per hour.

4. Response Speeds:

When responding to a true emergency, drivers shall operate the vehicle they are driving at as close to the posted speed limit as possible, but not to exceed ten (10) miles per hour over the posted speed limit, conditions permitting. Examples of conditions requiring slower response speeds include but are not limited to:

- slippery road conditions
- inclement weather
- poor visibility
- heavy or congested traffic conditions
- sharp curves

5. Intersection Practices:

Extreme care should be taken approaching any intersection as intersections are locations responsible for a large percentage of major accidents involving emergency vehicles. Drivers are required to practice Oconee County Emergency Services' intersection guidelines during all emergency responses.

Uncontrolled Intersections:

Any intersection that does not offer a control device (stop sign, yield or traffic signal) in the direction of travel of the emergency vehicle or where a traffic control signal is green upon approach of the emergency vehicle all emergency vehicle drivers should do the following:

- Scan the intersection for possible hazards (right turns on red, pedestrians, vehicles traveling fast etc.). Observe traffic in all four (4) directions (left, right, front, rear)
- Slow down if any potential hazards are detected and cover the brake pedal with the driver's foot.

- Change the siren cadence not less than 200 feet from the intersection.
- Avoid using the opposing lane of traffic if at all possible.

Subject: Emergency Vehicle Response	SOG: 04.04.01	Page: 3
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Emergency vehicle drivers should always be prepared to stop. If another vehicle operator fails to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, the emergency vehicle driver can not force the right-of-way, nor can he/she assume the right-of-way, therefore you do not have the right-of-way until the other vehicle yields it to you.

Controlled Intersections:

Any intersection controlled by a stop sign, yield sign, yellow traffic light or red traffic light, requires a complete stop by the emergency vehicle driver. In addition to bringing the vehicle to a complete stop these steps must be followed as well:

- Do not rely on warning devices to clear traffic.
- Scan the intersection for possible hazards (right turns on red, pedestrians, vehicles traveling fast etc.) as well as driver options.
- Begin to slow down well before reaching the intersection and cover the brake pedal with the driver's foot, continue to scan in all four (4) directions (left, right, front, rear).
- Change the siren cadence not less than 200 feet from the intersection.
- Scan the intersection for possible passing options (pass on right, left, wait etc.) avoid using the opposing lane of traffic if at all possible.
- Come to a COMPLETE STOP.
- Establish eye contact with other vehicle drivers, have the person riding in the officer position communicate that all is clear (if available); reconfirm all other vehicles are stopped.
- Proceed one lane of traffic at a time treating each lane of traffic as a separate intersection.
- Uncontrolled Railroad Intersections (no lights, gates or bells): At any time an emergency vehicle driver approaches an uncontrolled rail crossing he/she shall bring the apparatus or vehicle he/she is operating to a complete stop before entering the grade crossing. In addition the emergency vehicle driver shall perform the following prior to proceeding:
 - Turn off all sirens and air horns.
 - Operate the motor at idle speed.
 - Turn off any other sound producing equipment or accessories.
 - Open the window and listen for a train's horn.
 - If all clear, proceed with caution.

6. Non-emergency Response:

When responding to a call in a non-emergency response mode or normal flow of traffic (not responding to a true emergency) the vehicle will be operated without any audible or visual warning devices and in compliance with all state motor vehicle laws that apply to civilian traffic. At no time should any emergency vehicle be operated during response with only visual warning devices.

Subject: Emergency Vehicle Response	SOG: 04.04.01	Page: 4
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7. Ordinary Travel Procedures:

All drivers shall obey all traffic laws and traffic control devices when driving any OCES vehicle under ordinary travel conditions. Any driver observed breaking any traffic laws or driving any vehicle in an aggressive manner will be subject to disciplinary action.

8. Riding Policy:

Oconee County Emergency Services requires all persons riding in rescue squad vehicles to be seated and secured by seat belts whenever the vehicle is in motion. The emergency vehicle driver shall verify that all personnel are properly seated and in seat belts before the vehicle is moved. Oconee County Emergency Services prohibits the riding on tailboards, sidesteps, running boards, or any other exposed position. Only members of Rescue Squads may ride in County or squad-owned vehicles.

9. Backing:

The Organization recognizes that backing emergency vehicles is made hazardous by the fact that the driver cannot see much of where he/she intends to go. The Organization recommends that whenever possible drivers should avoid backing as the safest way to back up a vehicle is to not back up at all. When it is necessary to back up any departmental vehicle all drivers shall follow one of the two following measures:

- The first choice of backing procedures is that before any vehicle is put into reverse and backed that a spotter be put in place at the left rear of the vehicle. The spotter should be safely positioned so that the emergency vehicle driver can see them at all times. If at any time the driver loses sight of the spotter he/she shall stop immediately until the spotter is visible again.
- If no spotter is available, all drivers, before attempting to back any apparatus, shall make a circle of safety to see that; no person or persons are directly behind the vehicle or its intended path of travel; all equipment is secured and that all compartment doors are securely closed; any physical obstructions are moved out of the way. The emergency vehicle driver should also note all potential obstructions in the intended path of travel.

10. Privately Owned Vehicles (POV's) not approved for Emergency Response:

When any member responds to the station or to the scene in his/her POV, each member must strictly adhere to all applicable motor vehicle laws. Privately owned vehicles are not provided with the same exemptions that are provided to emergency vehicles (except as outlined in OCES SOG # 03.04.03). Any POV that does not meet the requirements will be permitted to violate any motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to:

- Speed limits.
- Going through traffic control devices.
- Passing in an unsafe manner.

While it is recognized that timeliness in response to an emergency is important, it is imperative that all drivers understand that their private vehicles, that do not meet the standards as set forth in OCES SOG # 03.04.03, are not emergency vehicles and therefore are not afforded any exemptions or special privileges under state law. Any driver observed breaking any traffic laws or operating any vehicle in an aggressive or unsafe manner will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension or loss of driving privileges. Each case shall be investigated, and evaluated on an individual basis.

OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES		STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
Subject: Personal Vehicle Response	SOG: 04.04.02	Page 1 of 1
Category: Vehicles	Rescinds: None	
Approved by: Scott Krein, Rescue Chief	Revision: 1	Effective Date: 11/01/11

PURPOSE:

To establish a standard for response to the station, and/or a scene in personal vehicles.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

GENERAL:

When any member responds to the station or to the scene in his/her POV, each member must strictly adhere to all applicable motor vehicle laws. Privately owned vehicles are not provided with the same exemptions that are provided to emergency vehicles. No member of Oconee County Emergency Services will be permitted to violate any motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to:

- Speed limits.
- Going through traffic control devices.
- Passing in an unsafe manner.

While it is recognized that timeliness in response to an emergency is important, it is imperative that all drivers understand that their private vehicles are not emergency vehicles and therefore are not afforded any exemptions or special privileges under state law. Any driver observed breaking any traffic laws or operating any vehicle in an aggressive or unsafe manner will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or loss of driving privileges.

OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES		STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
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Subject: POV Emergency Response	SOG: 04.04.03	Page 1 of 4
Category: Vehicles	Rescinds: None	
Approved by: Scott Krein, Rescue Chief	Revision: 1	Effective Date: 11/01/11

PURPOSE:

To establish a standard for Emergency Response to the station, and/or a scene in personally owned vehicles (POV's).

SCOPE:

All Personnel

GENERAL:

In an effort to provide members who wish to respond in an emergent fashion in his/her Personally Owned Vehicle (POV), Oconee County Emergency Services has developed this Guideline. This guideline must be followed by any responder who wishes to have the privilege of Emergency Response in a POV. Any member wishing to exercise this privilege must agree to abide by any and all applicable (both present and future) Emergency Vehicle guidelines established and approved by OCES.

POV EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Any personnel vehicle equipped with Emergency Warning devices which meets the requirements for such as outlined by the State of South Carolina and Oconee County.

A. The Emergency Vehicle Authorization Form must be properly completed and approved for each individual personal vehicle.

B. Lighting requirements set by SC Code 56-5-4700:

(1) Emergency lighting must be mounted as high as possible

(2) Flashing red lights are to be visible at 500 feet in normal daylight in all directions.

C. Siren requirements set by SC Code 56-5-4970:

(1) sirens must be capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet in all directions.

Subject: POV Emergency Response	SOG: 04.04.03	Page: 2
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- D.** Vehicle must be operated by authorized Oconee County Emergency Services personnel when emergency warning devices are in operation.
- E.** Personnel are required to have a minimum of training prior to being approved for personal vehicle authorization. This training includes: the SCFA course 1205 POV Emergency Response, as well as four (4) hours of annual Emergency Vehicle Driver training per year, the SCFA course 1210 Emergency Vehicle Driver Training is also recommended, but not required.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Any member who receives a complaint involving the operation of a POV (at any time) that is found to have merit, or who is found to be in violation of this Guideline, shall be disciplined as outlined in this section.

FIRST OFFENSE:

- Thirty (30) days suspension of Emergency Response Privileges
- Must successfully complete a "Defensive Driving" course as selected by OCES Command Staff

SECOND OFFENSE:

- Six (6) Months suspension of Emergency Response Privileges
- Thirty (30) day suspension of membership with the organization
- Must successfully complete another "Defensive Driving" course as selected by OCES Command Staff
- Must successfully complete the SCFA course 1205 POV Emergency Response program again
- Must receive a favorable recommendation from an evaluation committee as assembled by OCES Command Staff

THIRD OFFENSE:

- Loss of POV Emergency Response Privileges
- Ninety (90) day suspension of membership with the organization

Any member found violating this policy at any time, will face severe disciplinary action up to, and including termination of membership with this organization

Copy, fill out, and return the following forms with all necessary insurance documentation to the Oconee County Emergency Services Office. Any personnel with commercial insurance must include a certificate of liability. All personnel seeking authorization for POV Emergency Response agree to be bound by the guidelines established in OCES SOG # 03.04.01.

OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY VEHICLE AUTHORIZATION FORM**Vehicle Description**

Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ VIN: _____

Owner: _____
PRINT SIGNATUREOperator: _____
PRINT SIGNATURE

Address of Owner: _____

Address of Operator (If different): _____

Phone Number of Owner: _(____)____-____

Phone Number of Operator (If different): _(____)____-____

Insurance Company Name: _____

Insurance Company Address: _____

Policy Number: _____ Effective Dates: _____ to _____

Subject: POV Emergency Response

SOG: 04.04.03

Page: 4

POV COMPLIANCE CHECK SHEET

I have inspected the vehicle described below and found it to meet the following requirements:

Lighting meets requirements	YES	NO
Siren meets requirements	YES	NO
Insurance Information complete	YES	NO
Member meets training requirements	YES	NO
Member is in good standing	YES	NO

By my signature below, I acknowledge that _____ is a
PRINT NAME

Member of the _____ Division of Oconee County Emergency Services, and
this vehicle and member are in compliance with the boundaries set forth in OCES SOG #
03.04.03.

PRINT

SIGNATURE

Date: _____

This form must be signed and dated by the Chief of the Station or Squad to which this member belongs.

Member Name: _____
PRINT

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REPORT YOUR LOST PET to Oconee County Animal Shelter 888-0221 or email info to: ocas@netmds.com
You may include a photo. We will contact you if we find your pet.

ADOPT A DOG! Save a Life!
Loyal, loving dogs & puppies \$85 adoption fee includes spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip. Take a wonderful companion home today! oconeehumane.org Call 882-4719

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Oconee Humane Society offers low-cost spay/neuter vouchers to ALL Oconee County residents. **Find out more at oconeehumane.org or call 864-882-4719**

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PUBLISHERS NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY Cooperative Extension Service is a cooperative program financed from federal, state, and local funds. We are subject to the rules and regulations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. "Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer." Accordingly, persons who believe them or their organization to be subjected to discrimination by the Extension Service may file a written complaint. Such complaints should be sent to either: Director, Cooperative Extension Service 103 Barre Hall Clemson University Clemson, SC 29634-0110 Administrator, Extension Service U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250 Secretary of Agriculture U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250 Secretary of Agriculture U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 29250

The Oconee County of Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is located at 301c W. South Broad St., Walhalla, SC 29691. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Town of Six Mile is requesting bids through 12 PM on Feb 12 for an 18 by 800 entrance drive at the Bryson site including GEO Fabric and Grid, 3 inches of surge stone, and 3 inches of asphalt millings or crusher run. Send sealed bids to Rita Martin at rita_martin@sixmilesc.org or deliver to Town Hall at 106 S. Main Street, Six Mile, SC 29682. All bid acceptance is at Town's discretion.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given Boondocks at Sunny Daze LLC, intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and ON Premises consumption of Beer, Wine & Liquor 8835 Toccoa Highway, Westminster SC 29693. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must

be postmarked no later than February 9, 2026.

For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-097.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given Crafty Growler LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and ON Premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 115 Bountylard Rd Seneca SC 29672. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than February 16, 2026.

For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-097.

The Oconee County Rescue Squad Advisory Commission will meet at 6 pm on the following dates in Oconee County Council Chambers located at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC: February 12, 2026 March 26, 2026 April 23, 2026 May 21, 2026 June 25, 2026 July 23, 2026 August 27, 2026 September 24, 2026 October 15, 2026 November 19, 2026 December 17, 2026 January 28, 2027

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF OCONEE
C/A #: 2025-CP-37-00816

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING Vs. GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI AND ATTORNEY

KERI LYNN DION; MARVIN COLE-GROVE; SAM HALL, RONNIE HALL AND MARSHA DARBY, AS HEIRS AT LAW OF DELORIS COLE-GROVE WILSEY, DECEASED, AND ANY OTHER HEIRS-AT-LAW OR DISTRIBUTUTES OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR SPOUSES, IF ANY THEY HAVE, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WITH ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN; ALSO ANY UNKNOWN ADULTS AND THOSE PERSONS WHO MAY BE IN THE MILITARY SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL OF THEM BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS JOHN DOE; AND ANY UNKNOWN MINORS OR PERSONS UNDER A DISABILITY BEING A CLASS DESIGNATED AS RICHARD ROE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; AND DISCOVER BANK, Defendants.

TO: THE DEFENDANTS HEREIN, NAMES AND ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, INCLUDING ANY THEREOF WHO MAY BE MINORS, IMPRISONED PERSONS, INCOMPETENT PERSONS, UNDER OTHER LEGAL DISABILITY OR IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, IF ANY, WHETHER RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO THE NATURAL, GENERAL, TESTAMENTARY GUARDIAN OR COMMITTEE, OR OTHERWISE, AND TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM THEY MAY RESIDE, IF ANY THERE BE:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Motion for an order appointing Kelley Y. Woody, Esquire, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi, for all persons whomsoever herein collectively designated as Richard Roe or John Doe, defendants herein, names and addresses unknown, including any thereof who may be minors, imprisoned persons, incompetent persons, or under other legal disability, and as Attorney for said parties who may be in the military service, whether residents or non-residents of South Carolina, was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Oconee County. YOU WILL FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that unless the said minors or persons under other legal disability, if any, or someone in their behalf or in behalf of any of them, shall within thirty (30) days after service of notice of

this order upon them by publication, exclusive of the day of such service, procure to be appointed for them, or either of them, a Guardian ad Litem to represent them for the purposes of this action, the appointment of said Guardian ad Litem Nisi and Attorney shall be made absolute.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING COMPLAINT
TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint upon the subscribers, at their office, 3200 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29205 or Post Office Box 11682, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint in the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Complaint in the above entitled action was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court for Oconee County on September 2, 2025.

AMENDED LIS PENDENS TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action will be commenced in this Court upon the Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendants for the foreclosure of that certain Mortgage of Real Estate given by the Defendant Keri Lynn Dion to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for On Q Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated December 30, 2022, and recorded on January 3, 2023, in the office of the Clerk of Court for Oconee County, South Carolina in Book 4413 at Page 78 (the "Mortgage").

By Mortgage Assignment (the "Assignment"), Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for On Q Financial, Inc. assigned the Mortgage to the Plaintiff, and the Assignment was recorded March 15, 2023, in Book 4430 at Page 151 in the office of the Clerk of Court for Oconee County, South Carolina.

At the time of the filing of this notice, the premises affected by the said action were situated in the County of Oconee, State of South Carolina, and are described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with all improvements thereon, situate, lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Oconee, being known and designated as containing 3.867 acres, more or less, as shown on a plat prepared by James G. Hart and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Oconee County, South Carolina in Plat Book A154 at Page 2 and having the metes and bounds, courses and distances as

upon said plat appear and incorporated herein by reference thereto. LESS HOWEVER ALL that certain piece, parcel or tract of land, together with any and all improvements thereon, lying and being situate in the State of South Carolina, County of Oconee, containing 1.55 acres, more or less, as shown and more fully described on a plat of survey prepared by Gary L. Eades and recorded in Plat Book P63 at Page 256, records of the Register of Deeds for Oconee County, South Carolina: having the metes and bounds, courses and distances as appear upon said Plat, being incorporated herein by reference thereto.

This being the same property conveyed to Keri Lynn Dion by deed of Orville Dale Colegrove dated December 30, 2022 and recorded January 3, 2023 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Oconee County, South Carolina in Book 2893 at Page 11.

TMS#: 268-00-03-037

For a complete description of the property encumbered by the Mortgage, the undersigned craves reference to the Mortgage, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference.

By: s/Ryan J. Patane Benjamin E. Grimsley, SC Bar No. 70335 Ryan J. Patane, SC Bar No. 103116 SMITHIROBINSON P.O. Box 11682 Columbia, South Carolina 29211 (803) 233-4999 ben.grimsley@smithrobinsonlaw.com ryan.patane@smithrobinsonlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that Real Cantina Clemson LLC intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and ON Premises consumption of Beer, Wine & Liquor at 1071 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than February 9, 2026.

For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-097

To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2025.

For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-097

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given TT Express 1 LLC DBA TUNNEL TOWN EXPRESS, intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and OFF Premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 6254 Highlands Hwy, Mountain Rest, SC 29664. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than February 16, 2026.

For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;
- (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied;
- (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);
- (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,
- (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-097.

LEGAL NOTICE
The Seneca Board of Architectural Review will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall to hear the following Certificate of Appropriateness Application.
Docket # 1
Property Owner: 111 Ram Cat Alley Associates
Tax Map Number: 520-29-09-014
Property Location: 111 Ram Cat Alley
If you have any questions, please call Seneca's Planning and Development office at (864) 885-2726.



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