
Fire Service Authority

100.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the legal authority of the District and the individual members.

100.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District to limit its members to only exercise the authority granted to them by law.

While the Fresno County Fire Protection District recognizes the authority of members granted to them, members are encouraged to use sound discretion in the exercise of their authority, and this district does not tolerate abuse of authority.

100.3 ORGANIZATIONAL POWERS

This district is authorized to perform the following:

- (a) Fire code enforcement
- (b) Fire suppression
- (c) Investigation and arrest of individuals suspected of starting fires
- (d) Provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

100.4 FIREFIGHTER POWERS

Firefighters are sworn members of this district and have the following authority:

- (a) Participate in a wide range of emergency and rescue activities, including EMS, extrication and heavy rescue
- (b) Perform fire suppression duties, including the suppression of structural, aircraft, wildland and other types of fires
- (c) Investigate causes of fires
- (d) Collect and preserve evidence when a fire is of a suspicious origin
- (e) Possess peace officer status when serving as a fire investigator or Fire Marshal (Penal Code § 830.37)
- (f) Perform specialty services, including hazardous materials response, technical rescue, water rescue and additional services as authorized by the Fire Chief
- (g) Provide fire code enforcement inspection and plan review services
- (h) Provide public education and fire prevention activities and services

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100.5 CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

When exercising their authority, members shall observe and comply with every person's clearly established rights under the United States and California Constitutions.

100.6 SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Any chief officer may relieve a member under his/her command from duty when, in his/her judgment, an offense committed is sufficiently serious to warrant immediate action. A report of such action shall be made immediately through the appropriate channels to the appropriate Duty Officer, followed by written documentation of the charges, in accordance with District procedures. All such processes shall comply with established rules, regulations and applicable collective bargaining agreements.