



DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED SOG

SCOPE

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

North Carolina General Statutes concerning Motor Vehicles Laws are the strictest in the Nation when they apply to Driving While Impaired. The laws are intended to make the North Carolina Highways Safe from Impaired Drivers.

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PURPOSE

The objective of this procedure is to outline the position taken by the Stoney Point Fire Department concerning Driving While Impaired.

GUIDELINES

DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED:

1. The offense of driving while impaired (DWI) triggers some severe consequences. This crime exacts a toll from the offender, aside from the cost in terms of human suffering. North Carolina State Law provides stiff sanctions for those who drive while impaired or with a blood alcohol content of more than .08 percent effective 1 October 1993. This is as it should be, because a firefighter or public servant who drives after drinking demonstrates a significant lack of maturity and good judgment.
2. For this reason, members of this fire department who are charged with Driving While Impaired will be carefully scrutinized for their potential for continued service with the Stoney Point Fire Department. Every Stoney Point Fire Department member is expected to maintain high standards of professional and personal conduct and any full-time and part-time member who acts irresponsibly by driving while impaired and is convicted will be terminated from the Fire Department due to the requirement of a driver's license as a condition of employment. The



stakes are too high to do anything less. As a condition of employment all full time employees must have a valid North Carolina Drivers License at all time.

Volunteer members in violation of this standard will have their authority to operate department vehicles revoked and will be limited to riding the apparatus in the role of a fire-fighter only.

3. Any members so charged will immediately notify the Fire Chief of the pending charges and will under no circumstances operate any department apparatus or vehicle during the license revocation period and will not operate any apparatus or vehicle until authorized to do so by the **Fire Chief.**

4. Any full-time or part-time member that is found operating a motor vehicle while his license has been revoked will be immediately dismissed without questions due to the requirement of driving department vehicles as a condition of employment. Volunteer members in violation of this standard will have their authority to operate department vehicles revoked and will be limited to riding the apparatus in the role of a fire-fighter only.

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