

Douro-Dummer Fire Services Policy

Policy: 3.02

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Section: Human Resources

Subject: Chain of Command

Purpose: Chain of Command is the unbroken line of authority extending from the Fire Chief through a single subordinate at each level of command down to the level of execution. It is important to utilize the proper "chain of command" in dealing with any type of situation. Therefore, all fire personnel are directed to utilize the chain of command in all situations

Scope: This applies to all members, despite rank

Policy:

1. This policy is supported by the Establishing and Regulating by-law (E&R). The Fire Chief is the one person appointed by a by-law of the Council of the Corporation to act as Fire Chief for the Corporation and is ultimately responsible to Council as defined in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. The Fire Chief is the head of the fire department and is ultimately responsible for proper administration and operation of the fire department, including the delivery of fire protection services. The Deputy Chief is also appointed by by-law; therefore, the Fire Chief may delegate a variety of roles and responsibilities to the Deputy Chief and may carry out the duties of the Fire Chief in the absence of the Fire Chief.
2. The hierarchy of the Chain of Command is outlined in the Fire Services Organizational Chart through the E&R by-law, but whatever the makeup of ranks, a typical arrangement is a Recruit although can be guided by a Firefighter, still reports to their Captain, a Firefighter would report to their Captain, the Captain to their District Chief, the District Chief to the Deputy Chief, and the Deputy Chief to the Fire Chief.
3. The Chain of Command of the Fire Department is the order of vested authority and responsibility by which the business of the Department shall be conducted. It serves the function of allowing information to flow in an orderly manner from volunteer to the Chief and to all steps between. The proper use of the Chain of Command depends upon each member working within their assigned responsibility.
4. The Chain of Command applies at all times, not just during an emergency.