

# CLARENCE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1

## Handgun & Firearm Policy

### I. Scope:

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Clarence Fire District No.1, respects the members' 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights, while ensuring a safe environment for all members. This policy pertains to all members, Commissioners, and employees of the Fire District who hold a valid New York State concealed carry pistol permit.

### II. Objective:

It is the goal of the district that no member, Commissioner, or employee ever causes injury to oneself or to others and/or causes property damage as a result of the unsafe handling of weapons. The district also strives to maintain the professional image of the fire district in the eyes of the public.

### III. Guidelines:

The following rules and regulations are established:

- a. All handguns must be carried legally and under the licensed possessor's guidelines and restrictions of their pistol permit and must comply with the New York State Safe Act, as well as any and all applicable state and federal laws.
- b. This policy does not supersede any state or federal restrictions on carrying firearms, including proscribed no-carry zones, such as inside county, state, and federal facilities, post office properties, veteran's hospitals or facilities, and gun-free school zones, etc.
- c. Only members who hold a valid New York State concealed carry pistol permit, and/or those currently employed in Law Enforcement shall be allowed to carry a handgun on Fire District Property.
- d. A copy of the member's pistol permit must be on file in the district office and updated yearly. It is the duty of the member to inform the Fire District if their pistol permit is suspended or revoked at any time.
- e. The Fire District does not require members to possess a firearm and will not reimburse for any costs associated with the acquisition of a handgun, pistol permit, and/or training course.
- f. With respect to an emergency response:
  - i. At the time of the call, all active members should attempt to secure their handgun either at home or in their personal vehicle prior to entering the fire station.
  - ii. Upon entering the fire station, members must immediately secure their handgun in the district-provided lock box before entering the apparatus room and donning their respective personal protective equipment.
  - iii. Only Chief Officers (9, 9-1, & 9-2), and Fire Police Members are permitted to conceal carry handguns on emergency scenes.
  - iv. Chief Officers (9, 9-1, & 9-2), or those acting in those roles, must secure handguns in the lock boxes in their respective district-owned response vehicles when left in the apparatus.

- g. With respect to non-emergency situations:
  - i. All handguns must remain holstered and secured on the person licensed to carry the handgun at all times except to put the weapon in or out of a lock box or to defend one's self from a life threatening situation.
- h. Long guns, such as rifles and shotguns are not permitted on Fire District property without the authorization of the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- i. The Fire District is not responsible for any firearms that are lost, stolen, or damaged while on district property.
- j. Any violation of the above-mentioned policy, may result in revocation of this privilege and/or disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.
- k. The Fire District will willfully participate in any and all investigations pertaining to the misuse or handling of firearms; including unintentional or reckless discharges, menacing, negligence, etc.

This policy was adopted October 20, 2020 by order of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Clarence Fire District No. 1