

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

- **May 10 Regular Session Board Meeting**  
7:00pm—  
Headquarters
- **May 11 JCMOFA Board Meeting**  
7:00 pm—  
Station 5

**May**  
**TRAININGS**  
**Fire Streams**

- 3:** Station 6 7pm
- 5:** Stations 2,3,9 at Station 9 7pm
- 12:** Station 4 7pm
- 17:** Stations 7 & 8 at Station 8 7pm
- 19:** Station 5 7pm
- 24:** Station 1 7pm
- 26:** Station 10 7pm

**OTHER**  
**TRAININGS/**  
**MEETINGS**

- 2:** General Officers Meeting 7pm at HQ
- 21:** Recruit Training at HQ 8am

# District Dispatch

A publication of the Johnson County Fire Protection District

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MAY 2011

## Why policies/guidelines... Where do they come from?

The fire service has changed dramatically over the years even though many think we are still operating under the theory of “200 years of tradition unimpeded by progress”. With change comes the need for more formalized policies and guidelines to help the business succeed. Whoa, did you just say business? Yes, believe it or not the fire service has become more like running a business and less than just providing a service your neighbors needed. As with any business if there are no rules to follow or aid offered to help the employees achieve the business goals the business reaches a peak, flounders and then spirals down until it is closed or replaced by another competing business. As you may have read in many recent publications budgets are being cut and the fire service community is one of the targets for reducing expenses in many jurisdictions. If the fire service “business” is not working well or is somewhat out of control it makes it even more vulnerable for attack. Injuries, damages and general chaos due to a lack of organization supported by policies and guidelines are all precursors for the demise of any agency.

Ever wonder how or why our policies or guidelines get created? Let’s first look at the “why” portion of the question. Many of our policies and guidelines are somewhat reactive, meaning they are created to address a situation or requirement that has arisen. Often events take place that bring an issue to the forefront that makes it imperative that all members understand the desired outcome and the methods or accepted practices to reach that outcome. In addition, we are constantly subject to change from the “outside” world and have to meet certain standards or conditions imposed due to insurance requirements, national standards, best practices and other similar outside stimuli. Many times events take place that do not di-

rectly involve our District, but the “ripple” affect reaches us at some point. The most obvious in recent history is the 9/11 attacks and the massive nationwide reaction and changes that have been mandated in the fire service on the heels of those events.

We also attempt to create policies and guidelines in advance of tragic or traumatic events. These are often put in place to help avoid confusion and help all members know what is expected of them to help the “business” run smoothly. Although at times you look at a new policy/guideline and silently think “what in the world were they thinking?” there

really are good reasons and sound thinking that go into the formulation of the policy/guidelines.

Once a topic or action is identified as needing a formalized policy or guideline research is conducted to find out what is needed, do other agencies have the same issue and have they developed a policy or guideline already that they will share, what long term effects will there be, what else is affected by instituting the new policy/guideline and many other issues. After the basic information is gathered then the process of writing the document begins. It is amazing how much difference there is by simply using the wrong word or leaving a word out or adding an extra word in. The wording also has to be written to meet legal scrutiny, but yet kept simple enough so they are easily understood and not subject to each person reading them to interpret them in a different way.

When the policy or guideline reaches this point it is finally ready for review by our legal counsel. After the legal review the document is ready for Board approval if applicable and if no other alterations are needed it is put into effect and then distributed to all personnel for implementation.





4/13/11  
Station 5 responds to an anhydrous tank rollover on 50 Hwy

*“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”*  
Albert Einstein

4/18/11  
Personnel from Stations 1 & 10 participate in a public relations event with the Boy Scouts



## Procedure Reminder...

### Be Active!

The Board of Directors and the administrative staff firmly support our member's participation in organizations and functions that are fire service related on behalf of or because of their affiliation with the District. We also recognize the benefit to our local communities and other organizations that benefit from our member's involvement in non-fire related activities. Policy P2010-003 points out the expectations we have for our member's participation in non-District activities or organizations. The policy is fairly simple and easy to follow. Take the time to review the policy and become familiar with what is expected. It is important to remember if you are anywhere and in any fashion represent the District, even if it is implied due to your affiliation with the District and the reason you are joining or attending, the District policies and guidelines apply to you. Above all get involved in fire service organizations and trainings and be involved in your community. Have fun, be safe and BE ACTIVE!



# Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day



## It's JOCO Wear Order Time Shirts—Hats—Jackets

Order forms available at your station or in the Admin Office

All orders due by May 16, 2011



### POLICIES continued

As you can tell the process is time consuming and involves many steps. Hopefully by following this process we maintain useful policies and guidelines that help each of us complete our job tasks while complying with the expectations and sometimes legal boundaries of the District. We ask that you stay familiar with all policies and guidelines and do your part in keeping things running smoothly by complying with them.

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ADVISORY



BB Hwy over Post Oak Creek beginning May 2 for approx. two months.



If you have anything you would like to share in the District Dispatch, just contact the office at (660)747-5220 or email at [jcfpd@jcfpd.net](mailto:jcfpd@jcfpd.net)