

Osage Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines	Revised Date: N/A	Effective Date: 2/01/06
Substance Use/Abuse	Page 1 of 1	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to provide a greater margin of safety for the firefighters involved in an incident or drill as well as to comply with NFPA 1500.

COMMENTARY:

It is the position of the Osage Township Fire Department not to accept the services of any individual who is under the influence of a mind altering drug during any emergency operation, drill, or other function involving fire personnel.

PROCEDURES:

Members who are under the influence of a mind altering drug shall not participate in any fire department operations or other functions.

Any member who reports for duty under the influence of a mind altering drug, or any other substance that impairs the member's mental or physical capacity, cannot be tolerated.

Evidence of substance abuse or use could include but is not limited to a combination of various factors such as slurred speech, red eyes, dilated pupils, incoherence, unsteadiness on feet, smell of alcohol or marijuana emanating from the member's body, inability to carry on a rational conversation, increased carelessness, erratic behavior, inability to perform a job, or other unexplained behavioral changes.

The possibility of liability exists if a member who is under the influence of a mind altering drug is allowed to remain on duty, to operate or drive vehicles or equipment on duty, or to drive a private vehicle from the duty site. A member who is believed to be under the influence of a mind altering drug cannot be allowed to operate equipment or drive a vehicle, including a private vehicle, until the condition of the member has been determined and verified.

Any individual that arrives at the scene of operations, or drill, under the influence of a mind altering drug will not be allowed to participate. The individual will be notified of this, and will be directed to the Rehabilitation Sector until another person at the scene can be assigned to take the member home. The impaired members WILL NOT be allowed to operate a vehicle, including a private vehicle. The aid of a Law Enforcement Officer may be required.

Any member that is involved in any activity that will cause impairment will have his/her pager in the OFF position. If the member is not at home for this activity it is the recommendation of the Command Staff that the member will leave the pager at home.

Any individual in violation of this SOG shall be subject to disciplinary actions deemed appropriate by the Command Staff and/or Chief.

If the individual is responsible for any injury, death, damage, destruction or involved in a illegal activity while at the scene of operations, or the drill, immediate dismissal will be given by the Fire Chief, and any civil or criminal actions will be turned over to the proper authorities.