

New Durham Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

SOG 200 Chain of Command

Purpose: To insure appropriate and timely decision-making in operational and staffing situations.

Scope: All department members

Specifics:

1. Each department member shall report to a member of greater rank. When in a work crew or detail, the member of highest rank shall have decision-making authority regarding the allocation of resources and operation of the work crew or detail. If more than one crew is operating, then each crew leader shall report to the ranking member for the work detail.
2. Communication should always follow the chain of command whether from the ranking member to a subordinate, or a subordinate to a ranking member.
3. Any issues between a subordinate member and a member of a greater rank shall be resolved out of the public eye.
4. Fire Department rank shall be as follows:
 - a. Chief
 - b. Deputy Chief
 - c. Captain(s)
 - d. Lieutenant(s)
 - e. Private(s)
 - f. Probationary Private(s)
5. Within each rank category, a member with the most seniority in that rank shall be considered the member of greater rank.

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