



GENERAL ORDER

GENERAL ORDER 100.18

Firearms and Weapons

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Issue Date: 7/7/2006

Revision Date: 11/13/2013

1 APPLICABILITY

2 All Personnel

3 POLICY

4 It is the policy of Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (the Department) to protect the
5 safety of the public and provide a safe and healthful working environment for all members of the
6 Department. Therefore, the Department prohibits the carrying or possessing of firearms and other
7 weapons while involved in fire department activities.

8 DEFINITIONS

10 PROCEDURES

11 GENERAL

12 The Employee Manual, under the section, "Violence," and under the subsection "Prohibited Activities,"
13 says that no employee shall, "Bring weapons of any kind onto County property without written
14 permission from an Appointing Authority, except law enforcement personnel may possess weapons
15 which are legally authorized."

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- 17 • The Department recognizes that certain items are carried by fire department personnel, on their
18 person or in personal protective equipment, that are normally used for fire, emergency medical
19 services, and rescue duties. These items are not meant to be excluded. *Examples* of these items
20 are:
 - 21 ○ Legal pocket knives or carpet knives
 - 22 ○ Scissors
 - 23 ○ Pliers
 - 24 ○ Multipurpose "Leatherman" type tools
 - 25 ○ Any tools that are considered standard equipment found in the facilities, carried on or in
26 fire department vehicles, or other equipment.
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- 28 • Examples of items **NOT** considered as authorized for use by personnel during fire department
29 activities would be:
 - 30 ○ Spears
 - 31 ○ Illegal knives
 - 32 ○ Machetes
 - 33 ○ Cross Bows
 - 34
 - 35
- 36 • If there are any questions about whether a specific item is considered legal for personnel to
37 carry, then said item will be considered illegal until the member submits a written request to
38 carry the item in question.
 - 39 ○ The member must give specific examples of how the item will be used and why they feel it
40 is necessary to carry on their person.
 - 41 ○ All officers in the chain-of-command will endorse the report and state their
42 recommendation. Either recommending or not recommending the item be allowed to be
43 carried.
 - 44 ○ This will be handled on a case by case basis.
 - 45

EXCEPTION

- 46 • Law Enforcement Officers (sworn with arrest powers)
 - 47 ○ Law enforcement officers must follow their department's procedures, and any County or State
48 procedures, for securing their firearms prior to operating in any fire department capacity (i.e.,
49 training, meetings, standby, operational) as a county volunteer, corporate volunteer, or
50 contingent employee at a volunteer corporation.
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REFERENCES

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

55 Converted to newest GO version 4/26/2013 by SG #8232.

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

APPROVED

Deputy Chief John S. Butler
Operations Command