



Mansfield Fire Department

Welcome to Your Ride-Along Experience!

We're glad you're joining us! During this experience, you'll observe how we serve the community - but with that comes a serious responsibility to respect patient privacy and scene safety.



What is HIPAA?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a federal law that protects confidential health information and ensures it's only used for medical care, operations, or billing.

What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers
- Medical history or treatment details
- Dates of birth or death
- Any other information that can identify a patient

Important Ride-Along Scene Rules

- Participants are not allowed to enter any private residence unless the resident or an authorized person gives explicit permission.
- Company officers will not allow participants to be present in any situation that may jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to patients, victims, or members of the public.
- If a scene is deemed unsafe, sensitive, or private, observers will be directed to remain inside the fire apparatus and must follow instructions without exception.



Consequences of Violations

- Immediate removal from the ride-along program
- Legal penalties for HIPAA violations
- Permanent ban from future ride-along opportunities.

What you MUST Do

- Keep all patient information private
- Follow all directions from fire department personnel
- Keep your phone put away unless instructed otherwise
- Sign the HIPAA Non-Disclosure Form before your ride



What you CANNOT Do

- Discuss any patient or scene information
- Take photos, videos, or recordings
- Post anything about patient or scene information on social media
- Enter a private residence without explicit permission
- Remain on scene if doing so causes distress or safety issues

Questions

Privacy Officer
Mansfield Fire Department
Phone: 419-755-9814

