Marion Fire Cadet Program

Marion Volunteer Fire Department Marion, Kansas

Author: Del E. Leeds

Sources: Butler County Fire Dist. # 9 and Continental Western Insurance Co.

General Comments

This manual sets forth the procedures and goals for all members of the Fire Cadet Program of the Marion Fire Department.

The goal of the Marion Fire Department is to help members of the Fire Cadet Program in refining their abilities to make responsible decisions and become wiser young adults. Marion Fire Department will provide the training to the Cadets of this program.

This training will provide the Cadet the general knowledge of fire science and the roles of the firefighter. They will also be taught the hazards of fire fighting and how to deal with these hazards with safety in mind.

The role of the Marion Fire Department is to provide the youth of our community the opportunity to experience a professional field in which they might choose to pursue a career in the future; whether it be a paid firefighter or a volunteer.

This program will provide the operational guidelines and the skills needed for any young adult to prepare themselves to become a regular firefighter in any volunteer or career fire department.

ARTICLE 1 GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES OF FIRE CADET PROGRAM

Section 1 Each cadet will personally be responsible for familiarizing his or herself with this manual. They will be required to follow and perform all duties as is set forth in these rules and regulations. Any failure to do so may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the Fire Cadet Program.

Section 2 Requirements for Membership

- 1. Must be at least 14 years old.
- 2. Be in good health.
- 3. Must complete the Membership Application and Parents Consent Form.
- 4. Must provide a character reference from two (2) school teachers.
- 5. Must be physically able to perform the duties of a Fire Cadet.
- 6. Must be able to follow strict orders.
- 7. Must provide proof the Cadet maintains a C grade average or better while attending school. If at anytime the Cadet does not maintain grade requirements, they will be placed on inactive status until grades are raised.

Section 3 This Fire Cadet Program will include the following officers:

- 1. Directors (for example firefighters)
- 2. Cadet Commanders (for example firefighters)
- 3. Fire Chief

Cadet Officers will include the following:

- 1. Cadet Captain
- 2. Cadet Lieutenant
- 3. Cadet Sergeant

Section 4 The Fire Cadet program will hold at least one (1) meeting per month not on the same night as the regular Fire Department. No Cadet shall miss more than three (3) months of consecutive meetings or activities without the consent of the Cadet Commander and Directors. If a Cadet does miss three (3) or more consecutive meetings or activities they will be placed on inactive status.

- Section 5 Inactive Status, the following applies:
 - 1. Absent without approval--30 day probation
 - 2. Absent due to illness--medical release from Physician
 - 3. Inactive due to school grades--proof of 30 consecutive days of C average grades
 - 4. Inactive for disciplinary action at discretion of Commander and Directors.
 - 5. At the discretion of the Commander and Directors inactive Cadets may attend training sessions and meetings but will not be permitted to respond to fire scenes.

ARTICLE 2 NEW APPLICATIONS

- Section 1 Anyone wishing to become a Fire Cadet will complete an application and return it to the Cadet Commander, who will review it and then forward it to the Directors. They will review it and than bring it to a vote by the Cadets. Application is then forwarded to the Fire Chief. Upon Fire Chiefs approval, applicant becomes a Probationary Cadet of Marion Fire Cadet Program.
- Section 2 The Cadet Commander will assign each Probationary Cadet to a Marion Volunteer Fireman to guide the Probationary Cadet throughout the department and its operation. It will be hoped and expected that each Fireman will form a bond with his or her Cadet and help them all they can through this probationary period and throughout the Cadet Program.
- Section 3 Probation period will be sixty (60) or ninety (90) days and may be extended at Cadet Commanders request and approval by the Directors
- Section 4 During the first thirty (30) days of the probationary period the Probationary Cadet will not be allowed to ride on any fire vehicles or allowed to respond to any emergency calls.
- Section 5 After a minimum of thirty (30) days probation and upon approval of the Cadet Commander and Directors, a Probationary Cadet may start riding on fire vehicles as an observer only.

- Section 6 Upon passing required tests and at the recommendation of the Cadet Commander, the Directors will approve membership, extend probation, or terminate the Probationary Cadet.
- Section 7 Upon completion of probation the new Fire Cadet can begin training and meeting requirements.

ARTICLE 3 REQUIREMENTS TO FIGHT FIRES

- Section 1 1. Written permission form signed and on file.
 - 2. Have safety and fire gear.
 - 3. Have approval of Cadet Commander, Directors, and Fire Chief in writing and on file.
 - 4. Regular attendance of meetings both Cadet and Volunteer.
- Section 2 When permitted to respond to an emergency incident scene the Fire Cadet's responsibility will be of a support nature only.
- Section 3 No Cadet of the Fire Cadet Program will enter a burning building or structure.
- Section 4 Cadets will stay a safe distance from a burning structure at all times.
- Section 5 No Cadet will operate any hose lines unless that Cadet has been authorized to do so.
- Section 6 The Fire Cadet will not be allowed on the front of a fire truck on large grass fires, where the danger of a large head fire exists. They will be allowed on follow up trucks doing the mop up work and on small grass fires under direct supervision by a senior volunteer firefighter.
- Section 7 During a fire incident at the discretion of the Fire Chief or Fire Commander, a Cadet may be assigned to them to act as an aide. That Cadet will remain under the direct command of the above and no one else while that fire incident is in progress.
- Section 8 Violations of this article will result in suspension. The Fire Cadet Commander will be responsible to see that this article is enforced.

- Section 9 No Fire Cadet shall be allowed to participate at any hazardous material or pollution spill incident.
- Section 10 No Fire Cadet shall be allowed to participate on any entry team at a vehicle fire.
- Section 11 The Fire Cadet is PROHIBITED from responding directly to a fire or an emergency scene. Cadets must report to the Fire Station, dress in appropriate gear, and wait for further orders from the Fire Chief, Fire Commander, or another Firefighter. Only under adult supervision shall Fire Cadets proceed to any incident scene.
- Section 12 The Fire Cadets response may be in a personal vehicle, department vehicle, or department apparatus, provided the department vehicle or apparatus is not considered to be the initial attack vehicle or apparatus arriving on the incident scene.
- Section 13 All Fire Cadets will obey all traffic laws when responding to the Fire Station. No Fire Cadet shall be authorized to have or install any emergency lights or siren on their personal vehicle.
- Section 14 There will be no Fire Cadet allowed to operate any Fire Department Vehicle under an emergency situation (for example, red lights and siren).
- Section 15 No member of the Fire Cadet Program shall drive any Fire Department vehicle unless directed to do so by the Fire Chief, Cadet Commander, or Fire Commander. He or she may do so then, only if he or she maintains a current valid driver's license.
- Section 16 The Fire Cadets will be allowed to assist Firefighters with regular maintenance of station facilities, equipment, and apparatus.
- Section 17 The Fire Cadets may operate pump apparatus and set up equipment during a supervised training session.
- ARTICLE 4 Any Cadet who is injured in connection with any Marion Fire Department function, shall report such injury to the Cadet Commander, who will report same to Directors, who will prepare the proper and necessary medical forms. All injuries must be reported immediately.

- ARTICLE 5 Cadets who have become eighteen (18) years of age and completed High School, and with the approval of the Cadet Commander and Directors, said Cadet's name shall be forwarded to the regular Marion Volunteer Fire Department for a vote to become a Marion Volunteer Firefighter.
- ARTICLE 6 If any Cadet has a problem, complaint, or disagrees with something it will be handled by Chain of Command. This Chain of Command will be used and followed at all times by Cadets of the Program. The Chain of Command is as follows:
 - 1. Cadet Commander
 - 2. Directors
 - 3. Fire Chief

ARTICLE 7 POINT SYSTEM

- Section 1 The Cadet Commander may appoint some Firefighter or Director to be in charge of the point system. A report will be given to the commander and Directors for review at each monthly meeting.

 The point system will be as follows:
 - 1. Regular Meeting—5 points
 - 2. Training Session—7 points
 - 3. Work Night—7 points
 - 4. Outside Training—8 points
 - 5. Fire Standby—8 points
 - 6. Fire Calls—10 points
 - 7. New Cadet Recommendation—20 points
 - 8. Miscellaneous—3 points
- Section 2 Each Cadet will be responsible for his or her own point sheets.

 Each sheet will be filled out as soon as you return to the station from a call. Each time the Cadet will be required to have it signed by a member of the Volunteer Department.
- Section 3 Points may be removed from Cadets as a disciplinary action. This action can be done only by the Cadet Commander and Directors.

ARTICLE 8 CADET FIREMAN OF THE YEAR

Section 1 At the end of each year a Cadet will be selected for the Cadet of the year award. This Cadet will be selected based on points,

attendance, attitude, and overall performance. This selection will be done by the Cadet Commander an Directors with the final approval by the Fire Chief.

ARTICLE 9 TRAINING

- Section 1 The Cadet Commander and Directors will be responsible for all training. They may ask assistance from any Volunteer or anyone else qualified to do training. The Cadet Commander and Directors may appoint a Training Officer if they feel it is necessary.
- Section 2 The Cadet Commander, Directors, or Training Officers must maintain a record of all training, containing instructors name, date, equipment used, name of Cadets attending, and grades or scores if tested.
- Section 3 All Fire Cadets must complete all reading and homework assignments for training activities.
- Section 4 As a guideline the following is offered as suggested training classes for the Fire Cadet Program:
 - 1. Orientation
 - 2. Fire Behavior
 - 3. Communications
 - 4. Ropes and Knots
 - 5. Rescue Operations
 - 6. First Aid
 - 7. C.P.R.
 - 8. Defensive Driving
 - 9. Forcible Entry
 - 10. Ventilation
 - 11. Fire Inspection
 - 12. Automatic Sprinklers
 - 13. Salvage and Overhaul
 - 14. Breathing Apparatus (for example, air pack)
 - 15. Fire Hose and Fire Streams
 - 16. Fire Ground Ladders
 - 17. Natural Ground Cover Fires (for example, grass fires)
 - 18. Hazardous Materials
 - 19. Vehicle Rescue

ARTICLE 10 SCHOOL RECALL

- Section 1 Qualified Cadets (one or more) may be called out of school during an EXTREME emergency situation. Only the Fire Chief or Cadet Commander will have the authority to implement this action.
- Section 2 A signed permission slip form parent or guardian must be maintained in each Cadets file. A copy of this permission slip will also be sent to the school.
- Section 3 All Cadets will be required to return to school immediately after being released from the scene by the Fire Chief, Cadet Commander, or Fire Commander.
- Section 4 A record of school callouts will be entered and maintained in each Cadets file.
- Section 5 Cadets will be responsible to make up any school work missed.
- Section 6 This plan must have prior approval by the School Superintendent and/or School Principal before being put into effect.
- Section 7 Failure to comply with any part of this article may result in disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 11 FIRE GEAR

- Section 1 It will be the responsibility of the Cadet Commander to assign fire gear to each Cadet.
- Section 2 Each Cadet will be responsible for his or her fire gear.
- Section 3 At no time will any Cadet be allowed to wear any Volunteer's personal gear, without that volunteer's permission or permission from the Fire Chief.
- Section 4 At no time will a Cadet be allowed to respond to a fire scene without the proper fire gear. This gear will consist of the following:
 - 1. Helmet
 - 2. Bunker Coat

- 3. Boots
- 4. Gloves
- 5. Optional equipment shall include Bunker Pants, Goggles, Nomex Hood, or any other equipment the Department may issue.
- Section 5 All Cadets will have their helmets marked "Cadet".
- Section 6 Any Cadet who places his or her rank on any written form or equipment must proceed that rank with the word "Cadet".

ARTICLE 12 PERSONNEL FILES

Section 1 Personnel files will be maintained for each Cadet by the Cadet Commander. These files will be available for review by individual Cadets and or the Fire Chief or Directors. At no time will these files be viewed by any other member of this program.

ARTICLE 13 FIRE STATION RULES

- Section 1 Any Cadet who is on probation whether the reason being ineligible to fight fires or due to disciplinary action will not be allowed to suit up during the initial call of a fire, or while on standby, unless directed to do so by an officer or the Volunteer Department.

 Cadets will be permitted to dress out in full bunker gear during drills and training of the Fire Cadet Program and or Marion Volunteer Fire Department.
- Section 2 Eligible Cadets will be assigned to trucks only by Marion Volunteer Firefighters that are in charge at the station. No Cadet will run to the truck or apparatus or get into one that has not been assigned to him or her.
- Section 3 Cadets are to make their time at the fire station as productive as they can. Time spent familiarizing themselves with the equipment, their use and location on the trucks will be of great benefit to the Cadet.
- Section 4 No Cadet will be allowed to be at the fire station without supervision by a Marion Volunteer Firefighter. Only exception

will be while Cadets are on standby waiting for orders whether or not to respond to a fire scene.

- Section 5 Marion Volunteer Fire Department will not be responsible for any Cadets actions unless he or she is in the fire station, fire station property, or fire scene.
- Section 6 Loitering and horseplay will not be tolerated.
- Section 7 Failure to comply with any of these fire station rules will not be tolerated, and failure will result in disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 14 CADET CONDUCT

- Section 1 Cadets will at all times conduct themselves in a manner which is becoming to the Marion Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Cadet Program, and themselves.
- Section 2 Any Cadet reported to the Cadet Commander by another Cadet, Fireman, or citizen to have committed any misconduct while at meetings, training, on station property, at a fire scene, or at any time Cadet is under the supervision of the program will be subject to an investigation by the Cadet Commander and Directors. Upon completion of the investigation, disciplinary action or dismissal may occur.
- Section 3 All Cadets will maintain a neat appearance at meetings, training sessions, and any time the Cadet is under the supervision of the Program.
- Section 4 No shorts or cut off jeans will be allowed at Cadet meetings, training sessions, volunteer meetings, or fire calls.
- Section 5 When Cadets of the Fire Cadet Program feel that it would be in the best interest of the Fire Cadet Program to remove any Cadet, a petition must be submitted to the Cadet Commander or Directors. This petition must contain more than one-half (1/2) of the total number of Cadets in the Fire Cadet Program. The petition must also state the reason or reasons for dismissal. After review of the petition by the Cadet Commander and Directors the petition will be honored or denied. If the petition is honored, the Cadet

Commander will bring the petition to a secret ballot vote of the Cadets. The Cadet will be dismissed or retained depending upon the vote outcome. A simple majority will decide. The dismissed Cadet may appeal his or her dismissal, and be given a hearing before the Cadet Commander, Directors, and Fire Chief. The decision at the hearing will be final.

- Section 6 Fighting at the station, fire scene, training sessions, meetings, any Fire Cadet activities, or any Marion Fire Department activity will result in immediate disciplinary action by the Cadet Commander or Directors.
- Section 7 Any Cadet convicted of a misdemeanor or felony law violation will be subject to investigation by the Cadet Commander and Directors.
- Section 8 the use of Drugs, Alcohol, or Tobacco will not be tolerated at any time. Failure to comply with this section will result in review by the Cadet Commander and Directors. Disciplinary action may be taken upon result of this review.

The founders and supporters of this program want the Cadet to have fun and enjoy this Program but also understand that firefighting is serious and dangerous work. It is also hoped that each Cadet can always be proud of his or her accomplishments within the Fire Cadet Program.

BE PROUD YOU ARE A FIRE CADET