

Standard Operating Guideline For Helmet Cameras SOG 100-0010	Chicora Independent Hose Co. Page 1 of 5 Last Revised 5/21/2016
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## **1.0 Purpose**

This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) is intended to establish and communicate department policy for the use of helmet cameras by department personnel.

While there are benefits to using fire helmet cameras, they may create legal or public relations problems for the department. There are generally-accepted principles of law as applied to capturing images from public streets and in other public places. However, use of a camera at incidents inside residences or commercial establishments is less clear. Therefore, this SOG establishes a framework for intelligent use of video from helmet cameras that will allow the department to realize their benefits while minimizing potential legal and public relations issues.

## **2.0 Scope**

This SOG shall apply to all helmet cameras and similar cameras attached to a firefighter's person. It shall apply to cameras owned by the department or personal cameras owned by members.

This SOG does not apply to hand-held still picture cameras, hand-held video cameras or cellphone cameras. Refer to the appropriate standard operating guideline for these devices.

## **3.0 (Reserved for future use)**

## **4.0 Personal Protective Equipment Compliance**

Installation of the camera shall not compromise the integrity or function of any personal protection equipment. The chief shall have the authority to inspect and approve the installation of any camera.

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## 5.0 Permitted and Banned Uses of Helmet Cameras

### 5.1 Fire, Service, and Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Calls

In general use of a fire helmet camera by members of this department is permitted for all incidents except those involving direct patient care. Use of the fire helmet camera shall not delay fire suppression efforts or activities at hazmat or service calls.

### 5.2 Rescue Calls

The fire helmet camera may be used on rescue scenes. However, personnel should make every effort to avoid capturing patient care with the camera. If the helmet camera inadvertently records patient care during a rescue, the fire chief will have the final determination as to the use of the video. Personnel should avoid capturing images of vehicle registration ("license") plates whenever possible.

### 5.3 EMS Responses

**The fire helmet camera may not be used on EMS responses.** EMS crews are forbidden to have video cameras in their possession during an EMS response. If a fire helmet camera inadvertently records patient care during an event such as a rescue, the fire chief will have the final determination as to the use of the video.

### 5.4 HIPPA/Privacy Requirements

The fire helmet camera may not be used to video or record private medical information or records. Patient care or other private and/or personal information shall not be disseminated with the aid of the fire helmet camera.

### 5.5 Eavesdropping/Illegal Activities

The fire helmet camera shall not be used for any illegal activities such as eavesdropping on, listening to, or recording private conversations.

### 5.6 Posting, Uploading, or Emailing Video on the Internet

All video content will be reviewed by the fire chief or his/her designee before being posted, uploaded, or emailed. **No video or picture captures may be posted to social sites or given to anyone who is not a member of the department without the permission of the chief or his/her designee.**

## 6.0 Consent

A patient may give consent for a video of a rescue or other emergency event to be used in training, education, or any other usage desired by the fire department. The "Fire Department Usage Consent Form" (see Appendix B) must be completed and signed by any patient who gives consent for use of video.

## APPENDIX A

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### Helmet Camera Permission Request Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) hereby request permission to install and use a helmet camera. In return for permission to install a camera, I agree to the following:

- I will abide by the Chicora Independent Hose Company's policy for use of the camera and disposition of any video as described in department SOG 2013-001, "Standard Operating Guideline for Helmet Cameras."
- I will remove the camera if requested by the Chief.
- I will provide to the department at no cost any video or still captures from said videos as requested by the Chief.
- I agree that the video may be used for training, education, recruitment, uploading, downloading, or other uses as the department sees fit.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FD Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## APPENDIX B

### Fire Department Video Usage Consent Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) give consent to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department to use the video obtained on  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. I understand that I will not be compensated in any way for the use of this video.  
The video may be used for training, education, recruitment, uploading, downloading, or other uses as  
the department sees fit.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FD Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## REVISION HISTORY

12/16/2013

1. General formatting changes
2. Formal approval by Chief J. Miller and release to department.

5/21/2016

SOG number changed from 2013-001 to 100-0010 to reflect new numbering system.

01/08/2019

Changed to new format for SOGs.