

Texas Fire Chiefs Association
DOCUMENT SUBMISSION FORM

Candidate Department: Coppel Fire Department

Best Practice Standard: 12.17
(insert the Best Practice Standard you are working on - example "1.01")

Proofs of Compliance Submitted:
--Copy of written directive

Submitted By: Gregg Loyd	Date: 10/1/2013
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Evaluator's Review

Evaluator:

Date Accepted:

CITY OF COPPELL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE POLICY

Policy No. 1189

Rev. 10/01/2004

It is the desire of the City of Coppell to provide a drug-free, healthful, and safe workplace. To promote this goal, employees are required to report to work in appropriate mental and physical condition to perform their jobs in a satisfactory and safe manner.

Prohibition Against Alcohol and Illegal and Unauthorized Drugs. While on City premises, while on duty, while conducting City-related business or other activities off premises, while driving a City-owned or leased vehicle, or while operating or using other City-owned or leased property or equipment, no employee may use, possess, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol (except under the limited circumstances described below), inhalants, illegal drugs, including drugs which are legally obtainable but which were not legally obtained, and prescribed or over-the-counter drugs which are not being used as prescribed or as intended by the manufacturer.

Prohibition Against Illegal and Unauthorized Drug-Related Paraphernalia. This policy also prohibits the use, possession, distribution and sale of drug-related paraphernalia while on City premises, while on duty, while conducting City-related business or other activities off premises, while driving a City-owned or leased vehicle, or while operating or using other City-owned or leased property or equipment. Drug-related paraphernalia includes material and/or equipment designed for use in testing, packaging, storing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing illegal or unauthorized drugs into the body.

Permissive Use of Prescribed and Over-The-Counter Drugs. The legal use of prescribed and over-the-counter drugs is permitted while on City premises, while on duty, while conducting City-related business or other activities off premises, while driving a City-owned or leased vehicle, or while operating or using other City-owned or leased property or equipment only if it does not impair an employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job (or operate the vehicle, property or other equipment) effectively and in a safe manner that does not endanger the employee, citizens or other individuals in the workplace. Examples of impairment include, but are not limited to, drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, or feeling shaky.

Permissive Use of Alcohol. The use of alcohol by a City employee during a business lunch is prohibited even though the person with whom the employee is having lunch may be consuming alcohol. At no time may an employee under the influence of alcohol drive a City-owned or leased vehicle or operate or use other City-owned or leased property or equipment. Further, an employee on duty or conducting City business, including City-related business entertainment, may not drive his or her own personal vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Reasonable alcohol consumption is not objectionable at certain City-sponsored social events, certain City parties, business entertainment if appropriate

(but not during business lunches) and as may otherwise be specifically approved in advance by the City Manager. However, no employee in his or her work-related capacity should ever be impaired because of the excessive use of alcohol. Absent specific approval by the City Manager, City employees may not bring alcoholic beverages on City premises, including parking lots adjacent to City work areas, and may not store or transport alcohol in a City-owned or leased vehicle.

Fire and Police Department Employees. Certain City Fire and Police Department employees are required to be in possession of alcohol and/or drugs in carrying out their job duties. Such employees will be exempted from certain portions of this policy under certain limited conditions; these employees will be advised in writing of the specific exemptions applicable to them. Additional guidelines may be established by Police and Fire Department operating procedures.

Mandatory Disclosure by Employees. Employees taking prescription medication and/or over-the-counter medication must report such use to either their Department Head or to the Human Resources Department if there is a reasonable likelihood the medication will impair the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of his or her job (or operate a vehicle, property or other equipment, if applicable) effectively and in a safe manner that does not endanger the employee, citizens or other individuals in the workplace. Examples of impairment include, but are not limited to, drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, or feeling shaky.

On-Call Employees. Employees scheduled to be on call are expected to be fit for duty upon reporting to work. Any employee scheduled to be on call who is called out is governed by this policy. Sometimes, an employee who is not scheduled to be on call may nevertheless be called out. If this or any other situation occurs where the employee called out is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol such that reporting to work would result in a violation of this policy, the employee must so advise the appropriate supervisor on duty; the employee will not be required to report to work.

Mandatory Reporting of Convictions. Employees must notify their immediate supervisor and the Human Resources Department, in writing, of any criminal drug conviction (including a plea of nolo contendere) for a violation occurring off duty and/or in the workplace no later than five calendar days after the conviction.

Off-Duty Conduct. The City may take disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, if an employee's off-duty use or involvement with drugs or alcohol is damaging to the City's reputation or business, is inconsistent with the employee's job duties, or when such off-duty use or involvement adversely affects the employee's job performance.

Searches. The City may conduct unannounced searches or inspections of the work site, including but not limited to City property used by employees such as lockers, file cabinets, desks, and offices, computer and electronic files, whether secured, unsecured or secured by a lock provided by the employee. If reasonable suspicion exists, the City may also conduct unannounced searches or inspections of the employee's personal property located on City premises, including vehicles parked on City parking lots. **NOTE:** The City's authority to conduct unannounced searches is not limited to situations involving reasonable suspicion of possession and/or use of drugs/alcohol.

All searches must be authorized and conducted under the direction of the Human Resources Department. Employees who refuse to cooperate with a search will likely be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Rehabilitation/Treatment. The City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to provide assistance to employees who may be experiencing personal or family problems with alcohol or drug abuse, financial burdens, marital or other family problems. All employees who feel they may have an alcohol or drug problem are encouraged to utilize the program's resources before the problem adversely affects their job performance or employment status. Participation in this program is typically voluntary and confidential. However, a supervisor may make a mandatory referral when some aspect of an employee's personal life negatively affects his or her performance on the job.

1. It is the City's desire to assist employees who voluntarily request assistance with their alcohol or drug dependency. For City support and assistance, however, an employee must acknowledge his or her problem and seek and accept counseling and/or rehabilitation before it impairs his or her job performance and/or jeopardizes his/her employment.
2. Employees with drug or alcohol problems that have not resulted in, and are not the immediate subject of, disciplinary action may request approval to take a leave of absence to participate in a rehabilitation or treatment program. (An employee may not enroll in a rehabilitation or treatment program in lieu of disciplinary action.) The leave of absence may be granted in the City's sole discretion. Factors considered by the City in deciding whether to grant leave include the length of the employee's employment with the City, the employee's prior work and disciplinary history, the employee's agreement to abstain from the use of the problem substance and follow all other requirements of the rehabilitation/treatment program, the reputation of the program and the likelihood of a successful outcome, the employee's compliance with City policies, rules, and prohibitions relating to conduct in the workplace, and the resulting hardship on the City due to the employee's absence. Unless otherwise required by law, it is the City's policy to grant such a leave of absence only once during the course of an employee's employment with the City.
Note: Under certain conditions, treatment for substance abuse may be

covered under the City's Family Medical Leave Act Policy.

3. The cost of any rehabilitation or treatment may be covered under the City's group health insurance policy. In any case, the employee is responsible for all costs associated with any rehabilitation or treatment program.
4. During time off for a City-approved rehabilitation or treatment program, the employee must use any available vacation leave, sick leave, compensatory time off, or other accrued paid leave time. If the employee has no paid time off available, the time away from work will be unpaid. Where applicable, any time off for rehabilitation or treatment under this policy will also be designated as leave under the City's Family and Medical Leave Act policy.
5. If the employee successfully completes his or her prescribed rehabilitation or treatment, the City will make reasonable efforts to return the employee to his or her prior position or one of similar pay and status. However, employment with the City following a City-approved leave for rehabilitation or treatment is conditioned on the following:

Initial negative test for drugs and/or alcohol before returning to work;

A written release to return to work from the City-approved rehabilitation or treatment facility/program;

Periodic and timely confirmation of the employee's on-going cooperation and successful participation in any follow-up or ongoing counseling, testing, or other treatment required in connection with the City-approved rehabilitation or treatment program, if applicable;

In addition to any testing required in connection with the employee's ongoing treatment or follow-up to treatment, all employees who participate in rehabilitation or treatment under this section will also be required to submit to periodic and/or random testing by the City during the two years following the employee's return to work following treatment;

The employee's formal written agreement to abide by the above conditions as well as any other conditions deemed appropriate by the Human Resources Department. The employee must meet with the Human Resources Department Director or Assistant Director to discuss the terms of his or her continued employment and sign a formal agreement before returning to work.

6. This policy will be administered in accordance with the City's Family Medical Leave Act policy when applicable.

Policy Violations. Violations of this policy will generally lead to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination of employment and/or required participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation or treatment program. Employees with questions or concerns about substance dependency or abuse are encouraged to discuss these matters with their supervisor or the Human Resources Department to receive assistance or referrals to appropriate resources in the community.

Types of Tests. Testing may include one or more of the following: urinalysis, hair testing, breathalyzer, intoxilyzer, or other generally-accepted testing procedure.

Testing of Applicants. All applicants to whom a conditional offer of employment has been made will be required to submit to testing for alcohol and illegal and unauthorized drugs. A positive test result, refusal to test, or attempts to alter or tamper with a sample or any other part of the test, will render the applicant ineligible for consideration of employment or future employment with the City.

Testing of Employees.

1. Employees may be tested for alcohol and/or illegal and unauthorized drugs after a workplace injury or accident or “near miss,” when reasonable suspicion exists, or in connection with any required treatment or rehabilitation.
2. For purposes of this policy, reasonable suspicion is a belief based on articulable observations (e.g., observation of alcohol or drug use, apparent physical state of impairment, incoherent mental state, changes in personal behavior that are otherwise unexplainable, deteriorating work performance that is not attributable to other factors, a work-related accident or injury, evidence of possession of substances or objects which appear to be illegal or unauthorized drugs or drug paraphernalia) sufficient to lead a supervisor to suspect that the employee is under the influence of illegal or unauthorized drugs or alcohol. Supervisors who refer an employee for reasonable suspicion testing must document the specific, observable facts in support of reasonable suspicion testing (e.g., the who, what, when, where of the employee’s behavior and other symptoms, statements from other employees or third parties, and other evidence supporting the reasonable suspicion testing).
3. Tests will be paid for by the City. To the extent possible, testing will normally be done during the employee’s normal work time.
4. Any employee who refuses to be tested, or who attempts to alter or tamper with a sample or any other part of the testing process, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.
5. A positive test result is a violation of the City’s Drug and Alcohol Use Policy and will likely result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Any employee who is terminated for violation of the City’s Drug and Alcohol Use Policy

is ineligible for future employment with the City.

6. Police and Fire Department employees are also subject to any applicable Departmental rules and regulations regarding illegal and unauthorized drug and alcohol testing.

7. The City has additional obligations when testing for controlled substances and alcohol for those employees regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Please see the City's Drug and Alcohol Policy for DOT Employees for additional information.

Testing Procedures.

1. All testing must normally be authorized in advance by both the employee's Department Director and the Director or Assistant Director of Human Resources. If the Department Director is unavailable within a reasonable period of time, the Director or Assistant Director of Human Resources may, in their sole discretion, authorize the testing of an employee. If both the Director and the Assistant Director of Human Resources are unavailable within a reasonable period of time, the Department Director may, in his or her sole discretion, authorize the testing of an employee. For reasonable suspicion testing, testing may not be authorized without the supervisor's documentation of the articulable observations which led him or her to suspect that the employee is under the influence of illegal or unauthorized drugs or alcohol. Testing should be arranged as soon as possible after the supervisor's articulable observations.

If an employee's conduct resulted in a work place accident, injury or "near miss," and reasonable suspicion exists to believe that the employee has violated the City's Drug and Alcohol Use Policy, the employee will be provided with transportation to the testing facility. A supervisor or other designated City representative may be required to stay with the employee during the testing process. The City may, in its discretion, reassign the employee or put him or her on administrative leave until the test results are received.

The City will make arrangements to have the employee transported home after the testing.

3. All substance abuse testing will be performed by an approved laboratory or healthcare provider chosen by the City. All positive test results will be subject to confirmation testing.

4. Test results will be maintained in a confidential file separate and apart from the employee's personnel file. Any medical-related information will be confidential and only accessible by designated Human Resources Department representatives; supervisors and managers on a need to know basis, including those who have a need to know about necessary restrictions on the work or duties of an employee and any necessary accommodation; first aid and safety personnel when appropriate; government officials; insurance companies as may be necessary to provide health or life insurance to employees; by court order or as otherwise legally mandated; and as necessary to protect

the interests of the City.

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