

News and Media Policy

Every member of the Wichita West Fire Department should take into consideration that the department operates constantly in public view. The department exists to provide a public service to all that require our assistance. The department should always operate in as high as a professional and efficient manner as possible.

1. All members of any media organization wishing to conduct an interview or take statements on the department's behalf shall be referred to the Fire Chief, Asst. Chief, or Public Information Officer (PIO).
2. At no time shall any member give an interview or statement regarding fire department business without the Fire Chief's approval.
3. At no time shall any member be allowed to disclose patient information or information regarding any emergency scene to anyone. This shall include taking pictures that may compromise patient confidentiality or compromise crime scene investigations. This includes the use of personal devices such as cell phones, tablets, etc.
4. All members must have permission from the Fire Chief, Ass. Chief, or PIO prior to sharing any pictures or videos to social media such as Facebook, X, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc. This includes sharing on any personal accounts.
5. A department website and social media pages may be maintained. The Fire Chief, Asst. Chief, and Public Information Officer (PIO) shall be involved in all information, pictures, and details included before they can be made public on any platform.

Members of the Wichita West Volunteer Fire Department shall not criticize or ridicule the department, its policies, officers, or other members by speech, writing, or other expressions when such is:

- A. Defamatory, obscene, slanderous, or unlawful
- B. Tends to interfere with the maintenance of proper discipline
- C. Damages or impairs the reputation and/or efficiency of the department, its members, or mutual aid partners.

Any written, auditory, and/or visual message communicated by a member that is relative to the Wichita West Volunteer Fire Department in any capacity shall be the sole property of the department.