



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

July 1, 1996

Effective Date: August 15, 1996

COMMISSIONER'S POLICY STATEMENT NO. 5

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services encourages its employees to participate in voluntary community efforts. However, availability for such volunteer services during duty hours must be subject to the needs of the facility. This policy statement provides guidelines to govern such participation.

Volunteer Firefighters

The employee's availability for emergency fire duties must be considered before the appointment is made to these positions. Once appointed, the employee may be excused from duty to fight any fire at the facility or in a community where the hospital is part of a mutual aid agreement with the community.

Employees who are members of fire departments outside the facility firefighting structure should normally not be excused from duty to take part in fire emergencies related to those fire departments.

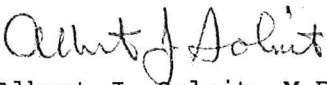
Emergency Medical Technicians

Any employee who is a member of an emergency ambulance service and works in a 24-hour service such as the power plant, Safety Services, or nursing will not be excused during working hours to attend to volunteer duties in the community.

General

An individual in the process of fighting a fire or treating or transporting a client while on ambulance duty may complete that duty before reporting to her/his hospital shift. However, the employee must report to work as soon as that duty is completed. The firefighter is not authorized to remain on watch duty once the blaze has been extinguished. No employee will volunteer to cover ambulance or fire service phones during working hours.

All employees who are volunteers or request clearance to volunteer for firefighting or emergency ambulance duty shall be given a copy of this directive.


Albert J. Solnit, M.D.
Commissioner

AJS:JAK:dm

This directive replaces Commissioner's Policy Statement No. 5 dated May 6, 1993.

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