



## Amherst County Fire & EMS Standard Operating Guidelines

### Introduction

#### Mission Statement:

*To serve the Amherst County citizens, businesses, and visitors by saving lives and protecting property through collaboration, innovation, and commitment to excellence through a team of dedicated Amherst County Fire & EMS agencies.*

#### Vision:

*To be trusted, respected, and principles-driven leaders in the County in which we serve.*

This is the introductory and administrative document of Standard Operating Guidelines for all Fire and EMS agencies in Amherst County.

This document has been reviewed by each Fire & EMS agency and voted on by the Emergency Services Council (ESC). It is our intent to provide written guidelines for all agencies to follow during emergent and routine operations to ensure standardization and provide for the safety of all.

**Operational Impact:** The Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) are intended to be guiding principles, providing a broad framework from a united foundation to ensure that all responders are aligned in their approach. Additionally, these guidelines guarantee that each incident throughout the county will be handled consistently.

Formal reviews of Amherst County SOGs will be conducted annually by the ESC. If the need arises between such, an individual SOG may be reviewed and updated by the ESC. New SOGs and/or SOG revisions shall be drafted by staff, at the direction of the ESC, and presented at the next scheduled ESC meeting. After being presented, agencies will have a minimum of thirty (30) days to review the document. At the subsequent ESC meeting, any proposed amendments to the draft will be presented for discussion. Once the final draft is agreed on by ESC membership, a vote will be taken. With a majority vote, the new or revised SOG will go into effect ten (10) days after adoption into Amherst County SOG. All personnel operating within Amherst County shall adhere and be held accountable to all guidelines listed within. Copies of Amherst County SOGs shall be shared with all mutual aid departments and partners within the region.

**The Amherst Fire Department, Monelison Volunteer Fire Department, Pedlar Volunteer Fire Department, and Amherst County Fire and EMS will henceforth be referred to as "the department(s)."**