

POLICY TITLE: Code of Ethics
POLICY NUMBER: 1020

1020.1 Background information:

Esparto Fire Protection District designed its Code of Ethics & Values (the “Code”) to provide clear, positive statements of ethical behavior reflecting the core values of the District and the communities it serves. The Code includes practical strategies for addressing ethical questions and a useful framework for decision-making and handling the day-to-day operations of the District. The Code is developed to reflect the issues and concerns of today's complex and diverse society.

1020.2 Goals of the code of ethics & values:

- a. To make Esparto Fire Protection District a better District built on mutual respect and trust.
- b. To promote and maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct among all involved in District government, District staff, volunteers and members of the District's Board. All elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, members of advisory committees, and volunteers of the District, herein called “Officials” for the purposes of this policy.
- c. The Code is a touchstone for members of District Board and staff in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities.

1020.3 Preamble:

- a. The proper operation of democratic government requires that decision-makers be independent, impartial and accountable to the people they serve. The Esparto Fire Protection District has adopted this Code to promote and maintain the highest standards of personal and professional conduct in the District's government.
- b. All Officials, and others, who participate in the District's government are required to subscribe to this Code, understand how it applies to their specific responsibilities and practice its eight core values in their work. Because we seek public confidence in the District's services and public trust of its decision-makers, our decisions and our work must meet the most demanding ethical standards and demonstrate the highest levels of achievement in following this Code.

1020.4 Applicability:

This Code shall apply to all District Officials as defined in 1020.2 b.

1020.5 Core Value:

As participatory Officials in the District's government, we subscribe to the following Core Values:

- a. Integrity - Maintaining honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior in all actions and decisions.
- b. Professionalism - Demonstrating competence, expertise, and dedication to high quality service delivery.
- c. Community Service - Placing the needs of the community first and actively engaging with residents
- d. Accountability - Taking responsibility for individual actions and decisions, and being answerable to the public.

- e. Safety - Prioritizing the well-being of firefighters and the public through preventative measures and training.
- f. Leadership - Providing strong guidance and direction to the department, empowering individuals to make informed decisions.
- g. Innovation - Embracing new technologies, techniques, and strategies to improve emergency response capabilities.
- h. Respect - Treating all individuals with courtesy and dignity.
- i. Responsiveness - Acting promptly and effectively to emergency situations and community needs.

1020.6 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be ethical. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I am trustworthy, acting with the utmost integrity and moral courage. I am truthful. I do what I say I will do. I am dependable.
- b. I make impartial decisions, free of bribes, unlawful gifts, narrow political interests, financial, and other personal interests that impair my independence of judgment or action.
- c. I am fair, distributing benefits and burdens according to consistent and equitable criteria.
- d. I extend equal opportunities and due process to all parties in matters under consideration. If I engage in unilateral meetings and discussions, I do so without making voting decisions or any improper or unauthorized representations on behalf of the District.
- e. I show respect for persons, confidences, and information designated as "confidential."
- f. I use my title(s) only when conducting official District business for information purposes or as an indication of background and expertise carefully considering whether I am exceeding or appearing to exceed my authority.
- g. I will avoid actions that might cause the public or others to question my independent judgment.
- h. I maintain a constructive, creative, and practical attitude toward the District's affairs and a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant.

1020.7 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be professional. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I apply my knowledge and expertise to my assigned activities and to the interpersonal relationships that are part of my job in a consistent, confident, competent and productive manner.
- b. I approach my job and work-related relationships with a positive, collaborative attitude.
- c. I keep my professional education, knowledge, and skills current and growing.

1020.8 As a Representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be service-oriented. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I provide friendly, receptive, courteous service to everyone.
- b. I attune to and care about the needs and issues of citizens, public officials and District workers.
- c. In my interactions with constituents, I am interested, engaged and responsive.

1020.9 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be fiscally responsible. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I make decisions after prudent consideration of their financial impact, taking into account the long-term financial needs of the District, especially its financial stability.
- b. I demonstrate concern for the proper use of District assets (e.g., personnel, time, property, equipment, funds) and follow established procedures.
- c. I make good financial decisions that seek to preserve programs and services for District residents.
- d. I have knowledge of and adhere to the District’s Purchasing and Contracting and Allocation of Funds Policies.

1020.10 As a representative of the Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be organized. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I act in an efficient manner, making decisions and recommendations based upon research and facts, taking into consideration short- and long-term goals.
- b. I follow through in a responsible way, keeping others informed and responding in a timely fashion.
- c. I am respectful of established District processes and guidelines.

1020.11 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be communicative. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I positively convey the District's care for and commitment to its citizens.
- b. I communicate in various ways, that I am approachable, open-minded, and willing to participate in dialog.
- c. I engage in effective two-way communication, by listening carefully, asking questions, and determining an appropriate response which adds value to conversations.

1020.12 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be collaborative. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I act in a cooperative manner with groups and other individuals, working together in a spirit of tolerance and understanding.
- b. I work towards consensus building and gain value from diverse opinions.
- c. I accomplish the goals and responsibilities of my individual position, while respecting my role as a member of a team.
- d. I consider the broader regional and state-wide implications of the District's decisions and issues.

1020.13 As a representative of Esparto Fire Protection District, I will be progressive. In practice, this value looks like:

- a. I exhibit a proactive, innovative approach to setting goals and conducting the District's business.
- b. I display a style that maintains consistent standards; but is also sensitive to the need for compromise, "thinking outside the box" and improving existing paradigms when necessary.
- c. I promote intelligent and thoughtful innovation in order to forward the District's policy agenda and District services.

1020.14 Enforcement:

Any Official found to be in violation of this Code may be subject to Censure by the District Board. Any member of any advisory Committee found in violation may be subject to dismissal from the Committee. In the case of an employee, appropriate action shall be taken by the Fire Chief or by an authorized designee.