



## **NVFC Code of Conduct**

*Updated August 2018*

**I understand that as a member of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), I have the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that reflects proper ethical behavior and integrity. In so doing, I will help foster a continuing positive public perception of the fire service. I understand that failing to abide by the NVFC Code of Conduct\* may result in the suspension or termination of my NVFC membership. As a member of the NVFC, I pledge the following:**

- I will conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on me, my department, the NVFC, and the fire service in general, and avoid behaviors that damage or could damage the good reputation of the NVFC or damages the morale or efficient operation of the NVFC.
- I will be truthful and honest in all of my dealings with and on behalf of the NVFC and fire service that compromise the integrity of the fire service. There is an expectation that NVFC members will not tolerate dishonest acts.
- It is not appropriate to use my NVFC or my fire service membership to seek or obtain influence or gain for personal gain, preference, advantage or advancement.
- Recognizing that I serve in a position of public trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, I will never misuse or misappropriate public or NVFC funds, resources or property.
- Recognizing that my position requires professionalism, competence, respect and loyalty in the performance of my duties and use of information, confidential or otherwise, gained by virtue of my position, I will use such information only to benefit those I am entrusted to serve.
- I will avoid financial investments, outside employment, outside business interests or activities that conflict with or are enhanced by my official position or have the potential to create the perception of impropriety.
- I will not engage in activities involving alcohol or substance abuse that impairs the performance of my duties as a firefighter, EMS provider and NVFC member and compromises the safety of others.
- I will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual preference, medical condition or handicap.
- I will be courteous, considerate and civil to all persons during the performance of my duties. NVFC members shall be tactful in the performance of their duties and are expected to exercise the utmost patience and discretion even under the most trying of circumstances. I will not harass, intimidate, bully, or threaten fellow members of the fire service, the NVFC, or the public and there is an expectation that NVFC will not tolerate such behaviors by others.

- It being essential for the NVFC, including its individual members, to be held in the highest regard for honesty, character and integrity, I shall refrain from any violent or criminal behavior, crimes of moral turpitude, and shall refrain from publicly associating with known criminals.

*\*Adapted from the Firefighter Code of Ethics developed by the National Society of Executive Fire Officers*