



Bensley-Bermuda Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.  
2500 Rio Vista St, P.O. Box 3360,  
Chester, VA 23831  
(804) 748-6122

Serving the citizens of Chesterfield Count since 1954

Policy #1002

01/31/2017

## PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS POLICY

Bensley-Bermuda Volunteer Rescue Squad is dedicated to the safety of all of its members, visitors and patients at all times during rescue operations. There is a longstanding relationship that exists between emergency medical providers and their patients that is built upon a proven commitment of trust, confidentiality and compassion for the sick and injured. This important distinction between EMS professionals and Law Enforcement Officers on the scene of an emergency is most easily recognized by the fact that EMS providers do not carry firearms while on duty.

Safety concerns exist regarding the carrying of firearms by members of the rescue squad in a variety of circumstances. Varying levels of expertise and training exist among the membership and BBVRS has no intent of certifying or standardizing training to allow their members to carry firearms. Perhaps most concerning is the possibility of a member losing physical possession of their firearm, resulting in a risk to the crew or the public as a result.

After extensive discussion of the benefits and risks associated with firearm possession, The Board of Directors has adopted the following policy regarding the carrying of firearms as a condition of membership:

1. Personally owned firearms are prohibited from being physically carried or handled by any member, at any time, while on squad property, both 'on duty' and 'off duty' other than to physically secure the firearm in their personal vehicle upon arrival to the property.
2. Personally owned firearms are prohibited from being brought inside or stored inside any building owned by BBVRS.
3. Personally owned firearms are prohibited from being placed on or transported inside of ambulances or squad owned vehicles.
4. Members that wish to travel to and from duty with their personal firearm may do so, provided the firearm remains secured inside their personal vehicle upon to entering BBVRS property.
5. This policy is applicable to all members, regardless of verifiable training, individual expertise, legal status, or concealed weapons permit status.

Sworn Law Enforcement Officers reporting to squad duty from their official place of duty as a LEO (in uniform) may enter a station with their firearm, however, must still comply with the vehicle storage requirement when the member is no longer in their law enforcement uniform. Members are expected to use prudent judgement and exercise the proper chain of command if any question exists regarding the possession or transport of a personal firearm.

The POC for this policy is the undersigned at: (804) 748-6122

Ryan Martinette  
President, BBVRS