

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">New Hartford Fire Department Best Practice Guidelines</h2>	
	Operations/ Safety	
	Policy #	Issued:

Subject: PHOTOGRAPHY

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to preserve the confidentiality of all patient records and scene preservation of a response.

Scope: This guideline applies to all personnel of the New Hartford Fire Department.

No photography of any type shall be permitted while at a scene to which the NHFD was requested, for the purpose of providing emergency response or patient care, except as required for such response or patient care and then only on an approved camera belonging to the NHFD. No photographs taken shall be distributed or made public outside of the NHFD except to the hospital, police or upon a proper request of a court of law or subpoena.

Any photographs deemed no longer necessary for patient care or scene preservation shall be destroyed.

Any photograph taken for training purposes must get approval by the Chief or by chain of command before it is made public.

No member shall carry any photographic equipment, other than equipment belonging to the NHFD.

“Photographic equipment” shall be defined to include any audio or video recording device, including but not limited to camera, video recorder, or phone with a camera/video recording functions.

The New Hartford Fire Dept. strongly urges all members to leave their photographic equipment at the station prior to boarding any department vehicle going to a call. Should any member leave the station with their photo capable cell phone it is recommended the phone stay in the vehicle at all times.