



Toms River Township Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 2-04: Fire Fighters

Issued: 1-1-05

Reviewed		Revised	
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PURPOSE - To describe the authority and responsibilities of a fire fighter.

I. **AUTHORITY**

Under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70.1, the members of the company shall be under the supervision and control of the Board of Fire Commissioners and in performing fire duty shall be deemed to be exercising a governmental function.

II. **FIRE FIGHTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Being a fire fighter in one of the six (6) stations in Toms River Fire Departments is an earned privilege.
- B. That privilege is given to any individual who has met the requirements defined in each station's Constitution and by-laws and regulations by the Toms River Board of Fire Commissioners.
- C. As a fire fighter, the community looks to that individual for expert advice, professional assistance, and dedicated service in times of disaster.
- D. The TRFD is all volunteer, however this does not mean that the dedicated men and women of the company cannot be considered "professional". For an organization to call itself "professional" certain standards must be met. These standards have much to do with acquiring certain levels of training and proficiency. Professionalism is also measured in personal



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conduct. Each fire fighter has responsibilities that go along with being a “professional” member of the TRFD.

- E. Fire suppression, rescue and other emergency service work is conducted not by individuals, but by teams. Each team is dependent upon the others, not only to accomplish the specific task at hand, but also to ensure that all operations are conducted safely.

This “safe conduct” refers to both the safety of the public we serve, and to our fellow team members.

II. OBLIGATION OF A FIRE FIGHTER

- A. Know and understand the Constitution & by-laws of their respective station, and the contents of this Manual.
- B. Abide by all safety procedures. The public, your fellow fire fighters and your family depend on this.
- C. Know all officers by sight and name.
- D. Learn and respect the chain of command.
- E. Learn the responsibilities of a fire fighter at all company functions, whether they are emergency incidents, fund raising or social.
- F. Learn the name, location and function of all equipment on the apparatus in the stations of township.
- G. Become familiar with apparatus response to each type of alarm.
- H. Attend as many training sessions and company business meetings as required. Seek additional fire service training and experiences above and beyond the basic.

III. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- A. Conducts interior firefighting operations under hazardous conditions as a member of a company under the direction of an Officer or Senior Firefighter.
- B. Handles and connects hose, holds nozzles and directs water streams, raises and climbs ladders and uses chemical extinguishers, bars, hooks, lines and other equipment at the scenes of fires;
- C. Performs salvage operations;
- D. Participates in fire drills and attends classes in firefighting, EMS and related duties;
- E. Performs general maintenance work in the up-keep of the Fire Department property;
- F. Demonstrates continuous effort to improve operations, and work cooperatively



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and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service.

IV. Required Skills and Abilities:

Ability to:

- A. Work cooperatively with other employees and the public.
- B. Work at heights.
- C. Operate power driven machinery such as Such as gas saws and hydraulic rescue equipment.
- D. Move heavy objects short distances.
- E. Communicate orally with customers, clients or the public in face-to-face one-on-one settings.
- F. Understand and follow oral and written instructions in the English language.
- G. Perceive red, yellow, and blue colors to recognize hazards identified by fire diamonds.
- H. Tolerate extreme fluctuations in temperature while performing job duties.
- I. Work for long periods of time, requiring sustained physical activity and intense concentration.
- J. Rely on sense of sight and hearing to help determine the nature of an emergency and make operational decisions.
- K. Make life and death decisions during emergency situations.
- L. Comprehend and make inferences from written material in the English language.
- M. Work in a variety of weather conditions with exposure to the outdoor elements.
- N. Work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others.
- O. Make fine, highly controlled muscular movements to adjust the position of control mechanisms such as operating levers, pedals, and valves.
- P. Learn job related material through structured lecture and reading and through oral instruction and observation. This learning takes place in both a classroom setting and in an on-the-job training setting.
- Q. Observe or monitor objects to determine compliance with prescribed operating or safety standards.
- R. Bend or stoop repeatedly or continually over time to perform emergency medical services, or perform duties on the fire ground.
- S. Perform duties requiring frequent pulling of 40 pounds or more, such as removing hose from apparatus, pulling ceilings, starting power equipment, and opening doors on the apparatus.
- T. Lift arms above shoulder level to cut vent holes with an axe or to force entry into automobiles using specialized tools.
- U. Use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and protective clothing to prevent exposure to hazardous materials.



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V. Firefighter Levels and Qualifications.

Probationary Firefighter

1. New members up to one year in the fire company.
2. Does not have firefighter level 1.
3. Must enroll in firefighter level 1 within 1 year from joining.
4. The Chief may extend probation.

Probationary firefighter designation will be a red helmet shield.

Firefighter 1

1. One year in the fire company.
2. Completed firefighter level 1.
3. Completed IMS I-100.
4. Completed I-700.
5. Completed Fast Awareness.

Firefighter 1 designation is a black helmet shield.

Advanced Firefighter

1. Minimum of two years in the fire company.
2. Completed firefighter level 2.
3. Completed IMS I-200..
4. Received IMS Level 1 Certification
5. Completed Pump School
6. Completed Truck School
7. Completed Extrication.

Advanced firefighter designations will be a blue helmet shield.



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A review of the firefighters training and experience may be requested in the event a firefighter does not have a listed course. A review will be conducted by the fire academy to determine if the firefighter has the equivalent courses.