

West Sand Lake Fire District No. 1 Probationary Training Guidelines

I. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this guideline is to insure that members of the fire company receive basic training in order to provide more efficient service, to reinforce the requirements of a team effort in responding to incidents and to re-enforce the need for safe operations at the scene of any incident. The only acceptable way to enhance experience, to reinforce the need for common knowledge to enhance scene safety and to build the basis of an efficient response team, is formalized training. It is the position of the Fire District that all members entering the fire service will be required to obtain a minimal level of training through a formal state instructor led course resulting in certification.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. State level certification, shall be defined as a course taught by a certified state instructor and leads to certification issued by the State of New York.

B. Member shall be defined as any person who has been accepted by the fire company and confirmed by the Board of Fire Commissioners to be affiliated with the fire company.

C. Certification means that a certificate is issued by the State of New York Office of Fire Prevention and Control or the National Fire Academy attesting to the attainment of a passing grade or a standard level of proficiency that has been achieved in a specific subject.

D. OFPC, Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

E. Member in Training, or Probationary is a member who has not completed the requisite minimum training courses.

III. GUIDELINE

A. It shall be the guideline that any person who has been approved to be a member of the West Sand Lake Fire Company shall attain a minimum level of training within one year of receiving an affirmative vote by the members of the company with subsequent approval by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

B. The minimum standards shall be;

1. Members who shall don SCBA or enter buildings with a hazardous atmosphere for the purpose of rescue, remediation or extinguishment shall obtain certification as an NFPA level Fire Fighter 1 from the Department of State, OFPC within one year of being voted in as a member or hold the training to obtain said level. Said training shall be verified the Chief Officer.

2. In addition, members who wear SCBA shall be subject to the minimal standards for the use of SCBA and shall have a medical review as prescribed by the West Sand Lake Fire District and in compliance with the OSHA respiratory protection standard which shall include the completion of a medical questionnaire, physical examination and respiratory fit test. These guidelines are set forth in the West Sand Lake Fire District Physical Exam Guidelines.

3. Members who join the fire company and do not intend to enter structures with a hazardous atmosphere or wear SCBA, shall obtain certification in the Department of State, OFPC Scene Support Operations course or equivalent courses as approved the Fire Chief.

4. Members who join the fire company and intend to perform fire police duties shall obtain certification in the Department of State, OFPC Fire Police Training Course or equivalent as approved by the Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners. Members shall be sworn by the Town Clerk prior to exercising fire police duties and complete requirement number 3 of this section.

5. Members are required to meet the standards as set forth in the Annual Training Guidelines.

6. All minimal training requirements are logged on the new member checklist.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. As stated, all members entering the department shall complete the appropriate minimum training course within one year of being voted into membership and shall be termed Probationary Fire fighters until the requisite courses are certified or completed.

B. If upon attaining the member's one year anniversary the required course has not been made available or unobtainable due to employment scheduling conflicts, a one year **written** extension *may* be granted on a case by case basis. The Chief officer shall sign a waiver and the waiver shall be entered into the member's official file. Upon granting of the waiver, the member shall continue their status as a probationary fire fighter in training until such time as the prescribed course is completed with certification.

C. If the prescribed minimum training is not completed and a certificate awarded within the prescribed period of time, not to exceed a total of 730 days, the member shall be removed from "active status"; Unless special provisions are approved by the Chief Officer and the Board of Fire Commissioners.

D. Members who are in the Probationary Fire Fighters "in Training" status shall be allowed to participate in drills, meetings, social events and shall be encouraged to respond to the station in a non-emergency mode and may only ride apparatus at the discretion of the Office in Charge (OIC) of the apparatus, if and only if there is space available and the riding position is not being occupied by a more fully qualified member.

E. Members who are in the Probationary Firefighter Status shall be assigned a Black Helmet which is indicative of their probationary status.

E. Upon receiving written certification of the minimum training standards from an accredited agency (NYS-OFPC or National Fire Academy) the member shall no longer be considered to be a probationary member "in training status".

H. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the enforcement of this policy.

Approved: January 30, 2012