

# LAKWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG NUMBER: 400.06	PERSONNEL
DATE IMPLEMENTED: SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 DATE REVISED:	TITLE: FIREFIGHTER CLASSIFICATIONS

## **PURPOSE:**

To maintain order, continuity and chain of command through standardized understanding of classification of firefighters and their respective requirements and duties during emergency response.

## **SCOPE:**

All volunteer Companies and volunteer members of the Lakewood Fire Department.

## **GENERAL:**

### NO SHIELD:

- A member who has qualified, been accepted and taken the Oath of Office into the Department/District may respond to an emergency dispatch to his/her fire station only, and may ride apparatus at the discretion of the Officer or highest-ranking member on the apparatus, provided room is available.
- Shall not enter the HOT zone at any time, for any reason.
- Shall not be permitted to respond to emergency dispatch with any type of emergency lights on their POV and must obey all motor vehicle traffic laws.
- The designation of **No Shield** will continue until the member is enrolled into Firefighter 1 and attends the first session.

### YELLOW SHIELD - (RECRUIT):

- A member enrolled and attending the Firefighter 1 course.
- May respond to an emergency dispatch to his/her fire station only, and may ride apparatus at the discretion of the Officer or highest-ranking member on the apparatus, provided room is available.

- At the discretion of a Department Officer, and under the Officer's control and supervision, may be permitted to perform limited exterior work in the Hot Zone.
- Shall not be permitted to respond to emergency dispatch with any type of emergency lights on their POV and must obey all motor vehicle traffic laws.
- Upon successful completion of and graduation from Firefighter 1 and/or Firefighter 1 and 2 when combined, the member shall receive an *Orange Shield*.

ORANGE SHIELD – (PROBATIONARY):

- A member who has successfully completed and graduated from Firefighter 1, and/or Firefighter 1 and 2 when combined.
- At the discretion of the Captain of his/her Company or highest-ranking officer, the member may be permitted to respond directly to the emergency scene.
- Shall be permitted to respond with a Blue Emergency Warning light as defined in SOG 101.16.
- May work in the Hot Zone under the direct control and supervision of a Department Officer or qualified "*Senior Black Shield*".
- A member shall serve as an *Orange Shield* for a minimum of six (6) months, during which time the member shall satisfy the Department's active member requirements.
- Upon the member's completion of six (6) months, or at any time thereafter, the Captain, or highest-ranking Officer of the member's company may request in writing to the Chief of the Department, and/or his/her designee, that the *Orange Shield* member be granted *Black Shield* classification.
- Prior to the Orange Shield member being granted Black Shield classification, the member shall successfully complete a skills and knowledge practical test, performed and graded by a minimum of two (2) Department Officers utilizing the "**Probationary Worksheet Form**".
- The Officers administering the skills and knowledge practical test shall forward a written recommendation of their findings and determinations to the Chief of the Department, as well as to the highest-ranking officer of the member's Company, within three (3) days of completion of the practical test in the form of a Pass/Fail recommendation. If the member fails the practical exam, he/she must wait a minimum of 30 days for a re-test.

- Members passing the practical test may be promoted to the classification of ***Black Shield*** by the Captain, or highest-ranking officer of the member's Company, but only with written approval of the Chief of the Department or his/her designee.

#### BLACK SHEILD – (FIREFIGHTER):

- A member who has successfully completed the required **ORANGE SHEILD** probationary term and has been formally promoted by the Captain or highest-ranking officer of his/her Company and approved by the Chief of the Department or his/her designee, the member shall be classified a ***“Black Shield”***.
- At the discretion of the Captain, or highest-ranking officer of his/her Company, the member may be permitted to respond directly to the emergency scene in his/her POV.
- For logistic reasons, the member is encouraged to report to his/her fire station to ride and arrive at the scene on the apparatus.
- Shall be permitted to respond with a Blue Emergency Warning light as defined in SOG 101.16.
- May be permitted to work in the Hot Zone under the direction of a Department or Company officer.
- A Black Shield may also become a department driver if they meet the requirements in SOG 101.11 under DRIVER TRAINING ELIGIBILITY, Section 1-b.

#### SENIOR BLACKSHIELD

- A member in good standing who has been a Black Shield for a minimum of three (3) years and has, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification.
- May be tasked with acting as an Officer at an emergency scene.

Legal References: N.J.A.C. 5:73-1.6