
Commendations and Meritorious Service

1018.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for reporting and collecting reports of exceptional public service and for the evaluation and process for district awards.

1018.2 POLICY

It is the goal of the Blue Ridge Fire District to recognize members through an awards system for exceptional performance.

1018.3 PROCEDURES

Community and district members may report acts of exceptional public service through any district supervisor.

1018.3.1 TYPES OF AWARDS

The types of awards offered by the Blue Ridge Fire District include:

- (a) Letter of Appreciation from a citizen or coworker
- (b) Letter of Appreciation from the Fire Chief
- (c) Company Citation
- (d) Commendation
- (e) Meritorious Service Award
- (f) Life-Saving Award
- (g) Outstanding Member of the Year

1018.3.2 SUBMITTING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Any member may report, in writing, to any supervisor, the exemplary performance of another member.

Any member of the public may submit a nomination by completing an award nomination form, available at all fire stations during normal business hours, and submitting it to the Administration Division.

1018.3.3 AWARD CRITERIA, APPROVAL AND PRESENTATION

The Fire Chief should appoint a review committee to review each report of exemplary performance or award nomination. Each report and nomination should be reviewed for merit and further investigated, if necessary, for additional factual details. In determining factual details, resources that may be used include, but are not limited to, copies of audio or video recordings, copies of incidents, or interviews with additional members or witnesses.

Each report and nomination should be evaluated on its own merit, with the following criteria as a guideline:

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- (a) If a report or nomination is determined to be for individual performance expected during the normal course of a member's assigned job duties, the review committee may elect to present the member with a copy of the report and nomination and place a copy in the member's personnel file. A Captain should approve this presentation. A supervisor should present the letter to the member in the presence of the company or station members.
- (b) If a nomination is determined to be for individual performance beyond what is expected during the normal course of a member's assigned job duties, the review committee may choose to have a Letter of Appreciation drafted to the member, for the Fire Chief's signature, detailing the specifics of the incident and how the member excelled. A Captain should approve this award before sending the letter to the Fire Chief for signature. The Captain should present the Letter of Appreciation to the member in the presence of the company or station members.
- (c) If an award nomination is determined to be for team performance beyond what is expected during the normal course of a company's assigned job duties, the review committee may elect to have a Company Citation drafted to the company, for the Fire Chief's signature, detailing the specifics of the incident and how the company excelled. A Captain should approve this award before sending the letter to the Fire Chief for signature and should present the letter to the company in the presence of other members of the battalion, if practicable.
- (d) If an award nomination is determined to be for individual or team performance well beyond what is expected during the normal course of assigned job duties, the review committee may elect to have a Commendation drafted for the Fire Chief's signature, detailing the specifics of the incident and how the individual or team excelled. The Fire Chief should approve this award. The Fire Chief should present this award, at his/her discretion, in a manner befitting the circumstances.
- (e) If an award nomination is determined to be for individual or team performance extraordinarily beyond what is expected during the normal course of assigned job duties, such as life-saving at significant risk of injury or death to the member, the review committee may elect to have a Meritorious Service Award or Life-Saving Award conferred by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief should approve this award. This award should typically be conferred publicly, at the discretion and direction of the Fire Chief.

1018.4 REVIEW DISPOSITIONS

The review committee should review award reports and nominations at least quarterly. Each nomination should be given a disposition of:

- (a) Copy of nomination placed in the member's file
- (b) Letter of Appreciation, approved/disapproved
- (c) Company Citation, approved/disapproved

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- (d) Commendation, approved/disapproved
- (e) Meritorious Service Award, approved/disapproved
- (f) Life-Saving Award, approved/disapproved