

## Badges

### 1029.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The name of the Blue Ridge Fire District and the district badge and uniform patches are property of the District. This policy establishes the rules associated with Blue Ridge Fire District badges and any likeness of the badge.

### 1029.2 POLICY

The Blue Ridge Fire District may issue members of the District a curved uniform badge for use or display in compliance with this policy.

Only authorized badges issued or formally authorized by this district shall be displayed, carried or worn by members while on-duty or otherwise acting in an official or authorized capacity.

### 1029.3 BADGE TYPES

#### 1029.3.1 SWORN, APPOINTED OR ELECTED MEMBER FLAT BADGES

Sworn, appointed or elected members may, at their own expense and with the written approval of the Fire Chief, purchase a flat badge that can be carried in a wallet.

A sworn, appointed or elected member may sell, exchange or transfer a flat badge only to another sworn, appointed or elected member of the Blue Ridge Fire District and only with the written approval of the Fire Chief.

#### 1029.3.2 CIVILIAN MEMBER BADGES

Curved uniform badges issued to Civilian personnel shall be clearly marked to reflect the position of the assigned member (e.g., dispatcher, Fire Chief, inspectors).

- (a) Civilian personnel shall not display the district badge except as a part of the uniform and while on-duty, or otherwise acting in an official and authorized capacity.
- (b) Civilian personnel shall not display the district badge or represent themselves, on- or off-duty, in such a manner which would cause a reasonable person to believe that they occupy the rank or position of any other member of the District.
- (c) Civilian personnel may not purchase, carry or display a flat badge.

#### 1029.3.3 RETIREE BADGES

Upon honorable retirement, a member may purchase his/her assigned curved uniform badge for memorabilia purposes. Other uses of the badge may be unlawful. The badge will remain the property of the Blue Ridge Fire District and may be revoked in the event of misuse or abuse.

An honorably retired sworn, appointed or elected member of the District may keep his/her flat badge upon retirement.

## *Badges*

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### **1029.3.4 MOURNING BADGE**

Uniformed members shall wear a black mourning band across the uniform badge whenever a firefighter is killed in the line of duty. The following mourning periods will be observed:

- (a) A firefighter of this district: From the time of death until midnight on the 14th day after the death.
- (b) A firefighter from this or an adjacent county: From the time of death until midnight on the day of the funeral.
- (c) Funeral attendee: While attending the funeral of an out-of-region firefighter.
- (d) As directed by the Fire Chief.

### **1029.4 LOSS OF BADGE**

Any member who loses any badge must immediately report the loss to his/her supervisor. A badge should be considered lost whenever it is not in the direct control of the member.

### **1029.5 UNAUTHORIZED USE OF BADGES**

No badge shall be issued to anyone other than a current or honorably retired member of the District. District badges are for official use only.

The district badge, uniform patch or any likeness thereof shall not be used for personal or private reasons including, but not limited to, letters, memoranda or electronic communications, such as email, websites or Web pages.

Members may not use the district badge, uniform patch or district name in any material (printed matter, products or other items) without approval of the Fire Chief.

Members shall not loan their district badge to others and shall not permit the badge to be reproduced or duplicated.

### **1029.6 PERMITTED BADGE USE BY MEMBER GROUPS**

The likeness of the district badge shall not be used by any member group without the express prior authorization of the Fire Chief and shall be subject to the following:

- (a) The member associations may use the likeness of the district badge for merchandise and official association business provided the merchandise is used in a clear representation of the association and not the Blue Ridge Fire District. The following modifications shall be included:
  - 1. Any text referring to the Blue Ridge Fire District shall be replaced with the name of the member association.
  - 2. The badge number portion of the image shall display the name or acronym of the member association.