



# ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 100-213

## Fire Department Career Progression

### 1.0 PURPOSE

Provide guidance for Fire Department Members related to the suggested career path progression of the member.

### 2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the above actions are taken in an appropriate manner is defined as indicated below:

2.1 Company Members (CM)

2.2 Company Officers (CO)

### 3.0 PROCEDURE

#### 3.1 Junior Firefighter

The Junior Program is essentially an apprentice program for young adults ages 14-18 (depending upon the requirements of the individual fire company) to familiarize the individual with the workings of the fire department.

- 3.1.1 Junior firefighters can participate in the Exterior Evolutions portion of the Firefighter I certification program through the various local fire academies. This is the same course that all firefighters take to start their career.
- 3.1.2 In the Exterior Evolutions course, the Junior member will learn about fire department operations such as forcible entry, ventilation, proper ladder placement and use. They will not be allowed to enter any hazardous or burning.
- 3.1.3 Junior firefighters are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the fire company's activities, including training, meetings, and work details.
- 3.1.4 Junior firefighters are allowed to respond to emergency calls on the apparatus as per their individual company's rules and regulations regarding Junior Firefighters.
- 3.1.5 The SFC ensemble should meet the NFPA 1971 Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Firefighting requirements.

#### 3.2 Firefighter

The fire fighter is the backbone of any fire department, and make up a majority of the members. The fire fighter is expected to be able to respond appropriately to the situation at hand under the supervision of an officer or a more senior firefighter. This is the first step in the progression to any line or engineering officer positions.

- 3.2.1 New firefighters are required to complete a Fire Fighter I program at an accredited fire academy, as well as any other requirements of the individual fire company to which they belong.
- 3.2.2 New firefighters are expected to participate in their individual company's training programs, as well as participate in meetings and work details.
- 3.2.3 After completing the basic training requirements of the Abington Township Fire Department and the individual company to which they belong, fire fighters are encouraged to continue their formal training by participating in additional courses at the fire academy or offered through the township. Such courses include (but are not limited to): Rescue I and II, Vehicle Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Firefighter II and Incident Command.

### **3.3 Driver / Operator**

Driver/Operator's are responsible for the safe transportation and operation of the various fire apparatus to the scene of an emergency call or training, and operating that apparatus.

- 3.3.1 Driver/Operator's are generally experienced firefighters who have progressed through their training as basic firefighters.
- 3.3.2 Driver/Operators are expected to participate in the required training to drive and operate each piece of apparatus that they are expected to operate at an emergency scene. Such training may include, but not be limited to EVOC (Emergency Driver's Operation Course), Pump Operations I and II, and Aerial Operations.

### **3.4 Engineering Officers**

Engineering Officers include the Chief Engineer and the Assistant Engineers.

- 3.4.1 The qualifications to become an Engineering Officer vary for each individual fire company, but they are generally experienced fire fighters and driver/operators with a number of years of experience as well as advanced training.
- 3.4.2 Engineering officers are in charge of ensuring that the apparatus remain in proper working order, as well as training new driver/operators in the proper operation of the apparatus.
- 3.4.3 Engineering officers are expected to be well versed in the area of hydraulics, as they are tasked with ensuring proper water supply at major fires Note: The qualifications for various Engineering Officer positions and various Line Officer positions may overlap. It is not generally required to start as an Engineering Officer to progress to Line Officer or vice versa.

### **3.5 Line Officers**

Line officers include the Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and Chief.

- 3.5.1 Line officers act in various supervisory following the chain of command, and at an emergency incident be expected to command anything from an individual crew up to acting as the overall incident commander.
- 3.5.2 The specific qualifications to become a line officer vary with each individual fire company, in general, a certain amount of advanced training and experience is required in order to become a line officer, starting with Lieutenant, and increasing with each position up to Chief.

### **3.6 Administrative Officers**

Each fire company also has an administrative aspect that runs the day to day business of the fire company, such as budget and personnel issues. Each company is run as a non-profit corporation with substantial assets in its possession. The structure of the administrative side of each company varies; however, in general, each has administrative officers, such as president, vice president and recording secretary. There may also be a board of directors or trustees.

Administrative Officers are generally made up of experienced members of the fire company who understand not only the business decisions required of running the fire company, as well as the needs of the operations side of the company.

## **4.0 RECORDS**

### **4.1 N/A**