

# **Basic Things New Recruits Should Know On the First Day**

## **All Incidents**

You are ultimately responsible for your own safety; be careful.

Drive carefully and responsibly in route. Never respond if under the influence of alcohol or pharmaceuticals, even cold medications.

Do not attempt a task you are untrained for or uncomfortable with. It is better to tell the officer you don't know how to do something than to attempt it and fail. If we are assisting another department, their officers won't know your capabilities.

Do not allow yourself to become dehydrated in the summer; drink water whenever you have the chance. Don't wait until you are thirsty and don't tough it out.

Approach any scene carefully and observe the surroundings to make sure it is safe to be there. Even a routine-sounding incident can be dangerous; the dispatcher might have incomplete information.

Park on the same side of the road as everyone else; do not park in the driveway or within three car lengths of it or otherwise block ambulance or fire vehicle access.

Unless absolutely necessary, do not touch personal belongings encountered in a home. At wrecks, put pocketbooks on the backboard with the patient and point out other valuables and firearms to a law enforcement officer.

## **EMS, Wrecks**

Whenever possible avoid body fluids; wear gloves; don't rub your eyes or put anything in your mouth; don't touch things with your bloody gloves and pick them up later. Dispose of the gloves properly. Check your shoes for body fluids before leaving the scene.

Stay out of the road; watch carefully for cars; use vest and flashlight if directing traffic. The second most frequent cause of firefighter fatality is from being struck by cars.

## **Assault Calls, Suicide** (anything involving violence)

Do not approach the scene until it is secured by law enforcement personnel. Wait a block away until you are cleared to approach.

Be careful not to disturb possible evidence; do not enter the scene at all, unless necessary.

## **Structure Fires**

Do not enter a burning structure unless told to and accompanied by an experienced firefighter.

Never enter a burning structure alone, even if you are the first to arrive and you think there might be someone inside.

If you are the first to arrive, put on your turnouts, gather information (Is everyone out; if not, where are they likely to be; where is the propane tank; etc.) and be prepared to report to the first arriving officer.

If you are inside a structure and hear the vehicles' air horns sounding continually, get out immediately.

Watch for downed hot wires. Be careful where you walk, especially at night.

## **Wildland Fires**

If you find yourself in front of the fire and you can't outrun it, you may be able to run back through it and get to an already burned over area.

Use the buddy system; never enter the woods alone. Make sure you dress appropriately; wear turnout pants and boots, at a minimum.

## **Hazardous Materials Incidents**

Do not approach any wrecks identified in the page-out as Haz Mat incidents. Stay ½ mile away or where everyone else is staging.

Approach all wrecks cautiously, do not park close and leave room for ambulance and fire vehicles. There are many dangers to firefighters at wrecks, including possible small quantities of hazardous materials, propane fueled vehicles, exploding bumpers, high-voltage hybrids, and downed hot wires.

## **Propane Leaks**

Do not drive into the scene. Your vehicle's ignition could ignite the gas. Park 100 yards away or more.

## **Our Vehicles**

You may not drive fire department vehicles until you have passed the driving course and are 21.

Know the location of all equipment on all vehicles, even if you haven't been trained on it. You will be doing a lot of fetching and carrying at first.

## **Our Territory**

Know the location of all streets and roads in our territory and adjoining territories.

We are the 600 group. Our officers are:

|     |            |     |             |     |            |
|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|
| 601 | Fire Chief | 602 | Asst. Chief | 603 | Chaplain   |
| 604 | Captain    | 605 | Lieutenant  | 606 | Lieutenant |

Our vehicles are:

|     |        |     |         |     |        |
|-----|--------|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| 691 | Pumper | 694 | Medical | 695 | Rescue |
| 696 | Tanker | 697 | Tanker  |     |        |

## **In General**

Observe carefully and ask questions. That's the best way to learn.

Be respectful to law enforcement officers, courteous to the public, and compassionate to bereaved or frightened family members or patients. Don't joke or laugh about things you are seeing.

Stay calm and focus on your task. You'll have time later to think about and talk about what you have seen.

Medical information is confidential; do not divulge medical details about a patient to anyone.

If the news media is on the scene and asks you questions, refer them to the incident commander.

You are on call 24/7; wear your pager and keep your turnouts with you at all times.

Wear your turnouts at any kind of fire or potential fire, at all wrecks and at all incidents where they might protect you. That's just about every kind of incident we respond to except "routine" medical calls.

Try to look professional; keep yourself neatly groomed; when possible, wear the blue T-shirt to incidents; don't wear sandals; don't smoke or dip while on duty; if you drink in public (off duty), don't wear fire department insignia.