

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

1205.015

Uniform Regulations

Implemented: 09/25/01

Revised: 10/14/13



Patrick T Grace, Fire Chief

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PURPOSE:

All Fire-Rescue personnel are expected to project a professional and uniformed appearance while on-duty and representing the department. Most always, the public considers the appearance and condition of a firefighter's uniform an indication of the department's professionalism, competence, and pride.

OBJECTIVE:

To provide all personnel with guidelines that define the proper and authorized use of the department uniform, define the different classes of uniform, and define the proper wearing of the uniform.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

AUTHORIZED USE

Uniformed members of the department shall report for duty in the prescribed uniform and remain in uniform while on-duty. All members of a company shall maintain consistency in the type of uniform worn during the shift.

Only uniforms approved by the department shall be worn while on-duty.

Uniforms shall not be worn off-duty except as provided in this guideline

No part of a uniform shall be worn with non-uniform garments, nor shall non-uniform items be worn with the uniform.

Uniforms shall be kept clean, neat, and in a proper state of repair. Faded, frayed, and worn out items shall not be worn.

Jacket and shirt pocket flaps shall be buttoned at all times. Pockets shall be free of objects that create bulges or that otherwise detract from a professional appearance.

A member in uniform shall at all times wear a belt. Only department-approved belts may be worn with the uniform.

Shoes and boots shall be kept clean and polished. Only department approved shoes and boots shall be worn by members with emergency response duties.

When wearing long sleeve uniform shirts, the sleeves shall be buttoned at the wrist and shall not be rolled up.

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UNIFORM STANDARDS

Personnel must set and maintain a high standard of pride in uniform appearance. The image projected by attention to detail, while wearing the uniform, is a key element in the public image of the department.

No articles shall protrude from or be visible on the uniform (i.e. jewelry, combs, large wallets, or similar items) with the exception of writing pens.

If a member wears glasses to correct vision problems, he/she shall wear prescription glasses without eccentric or faddish designs. Personnel are allowed to wear sunglasses when appropriate. The sunglasses shall follow the protocol for prescription glasses.

Uniforms shall be pressed, and at no time be worn with excessive wrinkles.

Uniforms may be tailored to provide a well-fitting, professional bearing. They shall not be altered to the extent of detracting from a uniform appearance, nor shall they be tailored to the point of presenting an excessively tight form fit.

All uniforms shall be kept clean and in good condition. If uniforms are not clean and presentable, officers have the authority and duty to require subordinates to clean, press, or replace unsatisfactory uniform items. Personnel will not be allowed to participate in any formal fire service activity unless they can properly represent the department in accordance with the uniform standard.

Uniforms shall not be worn in establishments where the reputation or moral standard of the organization could be compromised (except while responding on emergency incidents). Personnel shall not allow any unauthorized individual to wear official uniform items. However, the department may make specialized t-shirts and other clothing available to family members and the public.

In special circumstances, personnel may dress in "street clothes" when representing the department at special events, conferences, or meetings. Always be aware of the clothing you are wearing, the message it sends, the graphic presentation it makes, etc.

Pornographic material, beer logos, pictures of drug paraphernalia, nudity, or offensive language shall not be worn at any time while representing the department, on or off-duty.

The Fire Chief may authorize the wear or use of other items not specifically listed in this guideline.

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CLASSES OF UNIFORM

Class “A” Uniform (Formal):

Medium blue polyester long sleeve uniform shirt (Firefighters)

White polyester long sleeve uniform shirt (Chief officers, Captains, Lieutenants, Inspectors)

Appropriate patches and designations

Designated metal badge

Collar devices

Service & years of service awards

Black tie

Black plain leather belt

Designated dress coat (with appropriate striping)(1 maltese cross for every 5 years of service with ECFR)

Designated hat

Matching polyester pants or skirt

Shined black shoes and black or navy socks

Class “A” uniforms shall be worn for funerals, formal public events, and other activities designated by the Fire Chief.

Class “B” Uniform (Working Dress):

Navy blue cotton blend embroidered uniform shirt, long or short sleeve (Firefighter)

Medium blue cotton blend embroidered uniform shirt, long or short sleeve (Captains, Lieutenants)

White polyester uniform shirt, long or short sleeve (Chief officers, Inspectors, Staff assigned to Fire HQ)

Work t-shirt (white for Chief officers)

Designated metal badge

Collar devices (officers only)

Name tag

Service & years of service awards

Black plain leather belt

Authorized uniform pants

Shined black shoes or boots and black, white, or navy socks

Class “B” uniforms shall be worn during prevention/education presentations, and other activities where personnel interact with the public in a nonemergency fashion.

The Class “B” uniform has three styles of pants available. All styles of pants are navy blue in color. These pants are the standard uniform long pants, the optional “EMS” style, and the optional uniform short pants. Shorts will not be worn at public presentations. Officers are urged to use discretion when utilizing these uniform styles. Personnel will not wear the short pants as an outer garment on any fire or hazardous materials scene.

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When responding to such incidents, standard bunker gear will be donned.

Class “C” Uniform (Working):

Fire-Rescue t-shirt

Black belt

Uniform pants (long and short)

Shined black shoes or boots, and black, white, or navy socks

Class “C” uniforms are the normal work uniform for ECFR personnel and may be worn during pre-fire planning, hydrant checks, smoke detector installations.

Jumpsuits and Jackets

The wearing and use of jackets and jumpsuits, with appropriate logos, is permitted. This includes the attachment of patches, certification patches, nametags, etc.

Jackets shall be dark blue or navy in color.

WEARING OF COLLAR DEVICES

The following collar devices are authorized for use with ECFR uniforms. They are listed by rank and position. No other devices are allowed.

Fire Chief	5 Crossed Gold Bugles
Deputy Fire Chief	4 Crossed Gold Bugles
Assistant Fire Chief	3 Crossed Gold Bugles
Fire Marshal	3 Crossed Gold Bugles
Battalion Chief	3 Crossed Gold Bugles
District Chief	2 Crossed Gold Bugles
Assistant District Chief	2 Parallel Gold Bugles
Captain	2 Parallel Silver Bugles
Lieutenant	1 Silver Bugle

Collar devices shall be worn on the collar points of shirts. Officers wear the rank insignia on both collars. Center the insignia 1” from the front and lower edges of the collar and position the vertical axis of the insignia along an imaginary line bisecting the angle of the collar point. This procedure applies whether the collar is worn open or closed.

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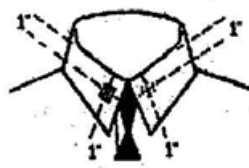
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Refer to the figure below for specific information and orientation.



SERVICE PINS

Service pins may be presented to ECFR personnel to thank them for their service and represent the length of time the individual has served with Escambia County Fire Rescue. Service pins may be awarded for service in five-year increments (i.e. 5, 10, 15, etc.). Service pins are worn ¼” below the top of the right breast pocket flap on the outside of the flap.

DRESS UNIFORM STRIPING

Dress uniforms (Class “A”) shall have the appropriate striping sewn on the lower sleeves of the coat. An insignia composed of ½” gold or silver stripes identifies the rank for personnel. The stripes encircle the sleeve with the lower edge of the first stripe 2” from the cuff of the coat. Multiple stripes have ¼” intervals between each stripe.

The stripes shall be worn as follows:

Fire Chief	5 gold stripes
Deputy Fire Chief	4 gold stripes
Assistant Fire Chief	3 gold stripes
Fire Marshal	3 gold stripes
Battalion Chief	3 gold stripes
District Chief	2 gold stripes
Assistant District Chief	1 gold stripe
Captain	2 silver stripes
Lieutenant.	1 silver stripe

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NAMETAGS

Nametags shall be centered directly above the right breast pocket of the class B shirt.

WEARING OF HATS

The ball cap/hat is an optional part of the uniform. Uniform hats are not required except on specific ceremonial occasions specified by senior officers. Personnel can wear their ball caps/hats except during certain religious services, invocations, or burials, etc. Ball caps shall not be worn with the Class "A" or "B" uniform.

WEARING OF DECORATIONS & AWARDS

Personnel are authorized to wear ribbons and decorations on their uniform. Decorations should only be those awarded by ECFR or other organizations authorized by the Fire Chief.

Ribbons

Ribbons are worn on the coat of the Class "A" uniform. Personnel may wear up to three ribbons in a single row. When more than three ribbons have been awarded, wear them in horizontal rows of three each. If ribbons are not in multiples of three, the top row contains the lesser number, and the center of this row sits over the center of the one below it. Wear ribbons without spaces between ribbons or rows of ribbons. Wear ribbons with the lower edge of the bottom row centered directly above the nametag above the right breast pocket. Ribbons shall be arranged in order of precedence in rows from top down, right to left.

Medals

Medals are worn on the coat of the Class "A" uniform for very formal events. When wearing more than one medal, suspend them from a holding bar that supports the medals' weight and aligns the top edge of the medals.

Medals are worn on the right breast of the dress coat. Multiple rows should be grouped in multiples of three, with the lesser number in the top row if necessary. Medals should be arranged with no overlap. Mount the medals so that they cover the suspension ribbons of the medals below. Arrange medals in order of precedence in rows from top down, right to left.

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SPECIAL UNIFORM SITUATIONS

Maternity Uniforms

Maternity uniforms are mandatory for all pregnant women in ECFR when a uniform is prescribed, and regular uniforms no longer fit. Personnel are expected to wear regular uniforms as soon as practical upon return from maternity leave.

Retired Personnel

Retired officers and personnel that are in good standing and are not actively working in the fire service may wear the uniform, insignia, and qualifications corresponding to the rank achieved at the time of retirement.

Retired personnel may wear uniforms at formal ceremonies or official functions when the occasion dictates. Retired personnel are prohibited from wearing the uniform in connection with personal enterprises, business activities, or while attending or participating in any demonstration, assembly or activity for the purpose of furthering personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues.

Retired personnel must comply with the grooming and uniform standards contained herein, but uniforms and equipment may either be those prescribed here or those authorized at the time of their retirement.

Class "A" Uniform (Honor Guard):

Medium blue polyester long sleeve uniform shirt

Appropriate patches and designations

Designated metal badge (silver)

Collar devices (silver)

Black tie

Black clarino leather belt

Designated dress coat (1/2" single red striping)

Designated hat (Navy blue with red stripe)

Matching polyester pants (1/2" single red striping)

Shined black shoes and black or navy socks

Class "A" honor guard uniforms shall be worn for funerals, formal public events, and other activities designated by the Fire Chief. Only honor guard members are authorized to wear this uniform.