

YORK COUNTY BOARD OF RURAL FIRE CONTROL

BOARD POLICY

Policy Number: 100.01

Policy Title: Awards

Adopted: 12/22/2015

Rescinds: New

Approved By: David Hord (Chairman)

I. PURPOSE:

This policy defines the awards the Board of Rural Fire Control has decided to make available to members of the York County Fire Service. Due to the amount of detailed content in this policy, it has been developed as a separate policy document.

II. DISCUSSION:

In keeping with the honor and traditions of the fire departments providing fire protection services in York County, all members of fire departments are eligible to receive awards authorized by this policy, provided they meet the requirements contained herein. Awards are divided into two categories: Meritorious Awards, and Annual Awards.

III. POLICY:

MERITORIOUS AWARDS:

- 1) Meritorious Awards consist of the following:
 - a) **MEDAL OF VALOR** - The Medal of Valor shall recognize extraordinary members who have distinguished themselves by gallantry and bravery in the performance of an act aimed to preserve life or property and is carried out with a clear risk of death or serious injury. The act was so conspicuous that it clearly distinguishes the individual as one who acted beyond the call of duty and whose bravery and commitment were in the highest traditions of the fire service.
 - b) **MEDAL OF DISTINGUISHED ACTION** - The Medal of Distinguished Action recognizes members of the fire service who have demonstrated exemplary actions in response to specific situations. This award shall be issued for actions aimed towards life or property preservation but in which the circumstances did not necessarily present a clear and defined danger of death or serious injury. The incidents may be emergency or routine in nature and may not present a perilous

situation, but the nature of the member's exceptional performance was obviously above and beyond the call of duty.

- c) **MALTESE CROSS** - The Maltese Cross is awarded to members who are seriously injured in the performance of their duties or during other overt acts aimed towards the preservation of life or property. The Maltese Cross may be awarded in conjunction with another award where the facts demonstrate that the recipient is entitled to such an award.
 - d) **LIFE SAVING AWARD** - The Life Saving Award is intended to recognize members of the fire service who are clearly and directly responsible for saving a human life. When a member's actions saved a life to the extent that the person lived for any period of time after the life saving effort, the member is eligible to receive this award even though the person may expire at a later time. The Life Saving Award is aimed towards recognition of those members that go to extraordinary lengths to save the lives of the individuals in our community.
- 2) Meritorious Service Awards will be considered for those members that selflessly engage in acts that are in the highest traditions of the fire service.
- 3) Any member of the fire service or general public may nominate a firefighter for receipt of a Meritorious Award providing that the nominated member fulfilled the given criteria during the performance of their duties. See Form 100.01, **MERITORIOUS AWARD NOMINATION FORM**.
- a) The Nomination Form must contain the incident number, date, place, and time of incident, the names of all persons involved, either as participants or as witnesses, and a detailed account of the incident or service performed. The Nomination Form shall be sent by regular mail to, Department of Fire Safety, P.O. Box 82, 2500 McFarland Road, York, SC. 29745. Attn: Director of Fire Safety. Or Fax to: 803-620-2269, Attn: Director of Fire Safety.
 - b) The Director of the Department of Fire Safety will convene the Awards Committee to discuss the circumstances of the nomination and to determine the process for investigating the nomination. This should happen within 10 days of receiving the nomination, if possible.
 - c) All investigations will be conducted by active members of the Awards Committee. Assigned investigators will be determined by the Chairman of the Awards Committee.
 - d) After investigation of a nomination, if it is decided by the Awards Committee that the situation merits receipt of an award, the nominated member(s) shall receive the award at the next monthly business meeting of that fire department whose member(s) were nominated. In cases where more than one department has members who are receiving an award during a common call, priority will be given to holding the ceremony at the station whose district the call originated in...conditional upon that department having a member receiving an award. In the case of award recipients from several fire departments, the Awards Committee will determine whether there will be one large ceremony at a neutral location or individual ceremonies for each recipient.

- e) These awards are to be presented in as timely a manner as possible. The Chief will notified as soon as possible so that proper arrangements can be made and notifications can be sent out to the media, York County Council, the York County Board of Rural Fire Control, and all fire departments within York County. Neighboring fire departments from other Counties and States who were involved in the incident will be notified as well. The Chief of the fire department will be responsible for informing the firefighter that he or she will be receiving an award so the firefighter can notify his or her family members who may have an interest in attending the ceremony. It is expected that the recipient's fire department will provide refreshments for the ceremony. If the recipient is from a fire department outside of York County, the ceremony will be held at the York County Fire Training Center.
 - f) The Ceremony will be conducted with a request for all guests and fire service attendees to dress in appropriate attire (e.g., for fire service personnel wear a Class A if available or the fire department's dress uniform). The Chairman of the Awards Committee or his designee will call the room to order and read a description of the events that led to the award and he will specify the award, the recipient's name, rank, department, and any other pertinent information.
 - g) Meritorious Award winners and their spouse will be recognized at the YCFCA Awards Banquet in January.
- 4) Meritorious Awards for the Medal of Valor, the Medal of Distinguished Action, and the Maltese Cross awards are bestowed in the form of a medal, commendation bar, and a plaque. The Lifesaving Award is bestowed in the form of a commendation bar and a plaque.
- 5) The Awards Committee, with Board of Fire Control approval, may add additional awards to this policy if deemed appropriate.
- 6) The Awards Committee will consist of the Director of Fire Safety and six (6) committee members approved by the Fire Board. The Director of Fire Safety will be a permanent member who will serve as Chairman of the Awards Committee. Committee members will serve four-year terms; initially staggered to obtain the goal of having no more than two new members come on the Awards Committee per year. There are no term limits; however, if there are others who would like to volunteer for a position on the Awards Committee, all nominees' names (including any incumbent member who wishes to remain on the Awards Committee) will be submitted to the Board of Rural Fire Control for a determination.

ANNUAL AWARDS

1) Annual Awards consist of the following:

- a) **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD** – This award is presented to current firefighters in the fire service who have exhibited behaviors that may be considered heroic, commendable, outstanding, and/or improved the reputation of the fire service are eligible to be nominated for this award. The following personal traits should be considered.

Character:

The individual demonstrates the highest order of character. Including traits of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and citizenship. This individual is honest, loyal, and reliable. He/she is considerate of others. The individual uses self-control, thinking before he/she acts, and owning the consequences of their actions.

Dedication:

He/she has demonstrated the highest degree of dedication, participation, and contributions within his/her fire department and to the fire service at the county level, including training, fire response, public education and other fire service operations.

Loyalty:

The individual has demonstrated an allegiance to his/her fire department, and/or the York County fire service, and to its' firefighters. Is steadfast, striving to achieve or improve upon the goals of the fire service, engaging only in solution-driven constructive criticism, that will lead to improvements in the service.

Professionalism:

Performs their duties in a manner that exemplifies the competency that all firefighters should strive to achieve and which reflects the highest standards of the fire service. Regularly demonstrates the desire to reduce fire losses and to improve fire protection in his/her community and throughout York County.

- b) **LEGEND OF THE FLAME AWARD** - Any member of the fire service who serves in any capacity shall be eligible to be nominated for this award. This award is not dependent on the individual being a current, active fire service member. This award is geared toward recognizing a long time career in the fire service that is worthy of recognition. The Legend of the Flame Award is given to individuals who have committed their careers to the betterment of the fire service in York County, beyond their local communities and have demonstrated achievements of superior notoriety.

- 2) The Firefighter of the Year award is bestowed in the form of a medal, commendation bar, and a plaque. The Legend of the Flame award is bestowed in the form of a commendation bar and a plaque.
- 3) For Annual Awards, a committee consisting of the Director of Fire Safety, the Chairman of the Board of Rural Fire Control, and the President of the York County Fire Chief's Association shall evaluate the nominations. If one individual serves as both the Chairman of the Board of Rural Fire Control and the President of the YC Fire Chief's Association, then the Vice President of the YC Fire Chief's Association shall serve as the third committee member. Any member of the fire departments providing fire services in York County shall be eligible to be nominated for this award. The Department of Fire Safety will notify Fire Chiefs in the 4th quarter of each year to submit nominations for Annual Awards. Nominations will be collected by the Department of Fire Safety and then presented to the committee responsible for selecting Annual Awards recipients. Annual Awards, for the current year being considered, are presented at the upcoming York County Fire Chief's Association Awards Banquet in January of each year.
- 4) In cases of moral turpitude by an award recipient or where the individual's actions have been detrimental to the reputation of the fire service in York County, the Board of Rural Fire Control may rescind a previous award, upon a motion and 2/3 supermajority vote in a meeting, duly assembled.
- 5) A description of the Medals, Commendation Bars, and Plaques are as follows:

Medal of Valor

The A8365 medal in Hi-Glo. This includes the cost of the seal being applied as well as the drape ribbon RC-45. (When ordering, specify they package an A7140-S with the A8365 medal). Blackington

The A7140-S VALOR commendation bar in Gol-Tone. By Blackington

The #025 Bronze Fire Extinguisher on a raised Walnut Base with Engraved Plate is presented for the Medal of Valor Award. Liberty Art Works

Distinguished Action

The A4387 medal in Hi-Glo. This includes the cost of the seal being applied as well as the drape ribbon RC-46. (When ordering, specify they package the commendation bar (the number) with the A4387 medal). By Blackington

The # (TBD) commendation bar in Gol-Tone. By Blackington

The 3320001 Cast Bronze Bell on a raised Walnut Base with Engraved Plate is presented for the Distinguished Action Award. By Engraving, Awards & Gifts

Maltese Cross

The B491 medal in Hi-Glo. This includes the cost of the seal and the ring attachment. Add an RC-1 drape ribbon. By Blackington

The A10806 commendation bar in Gol-Tone. When ordering, you must specify to package the A10806 with the B491 medal. By Blackington

The 3324009 Walnut Plaque and Maltese Cross with gold metal fireman with hose figure on pedestal, and the gold disk holder with 2” disk is presented for the Maltese Cross Award. By Engraving, Awards & Gifts

Life Saving

The A10296 commendation bar in Gol-Tone. Heart to be red in color. By Blackington

The 3324011 Walnut Plaque and Maltese Cross with “To Serve and Protect” metal casting is presented for the Lifesaving Award. By Engraving, Awards & Gifts

Firefighter of the Year

The A4131 medal is \$59 in Hi-Glo. This includes the cost of the seal being applied as well as the drape ribbon RC-3. By Blackington

The A7142 commendation bar in Gol-Tone. By Blackington

The 3326007 Walnut Plaque with Brass FF Pike Pole, add the 3371010 Pike Pole Engraving with Black Fill is presented to the Firefighter of the Year. By Engraving, Awards & Gifts

Legend of the Flame

The A4830B & 49940 custom commendation bar in Gol-Tone. You will need the custom part number from the Committee prior to ordering. By Blackington

The GDI151N Large Brass Speaking Trumpet mounted on a walnut base with engraved plate, add the Gold Cord for a Large Trumpet. By Our Designs

