

MOSIER FIRE DISTRICT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Section: ADMINISTRATION	Title: RESPONDER QUALIFICATIONS	Policy Number: 2007
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PURPOSE

This policy establishes the minimum qualifications for members who respond to emergency calls or other alarms.

Qualifications ensure the safety of all responders and the effective delivery of emergency services.

Minimum qualifications are not intended to restrict members from exceeding these requirements.

PERSONS AFFECTED

All Mosier Fire District employees and members who answer emergency calls or other alarms.

REFERENCES

NFPA 1001, 1002, 1026, 1041, 1051, 1401, 1410, 1451, 1720
National Wildfire Coordinating Group, *Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide* (PMS 310-1)
OAR 437-002-0182 (10); OAR 437-002-0182 §1910.156 and Appendix A §1910.156
Office of Emergency Management, *NIMS Training Requirements for Federal FY 2012*

DEFINITIONS

Accredited: Training which is approved by the State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) as counting toward personal and/or Department certification.

Apparatus operator (A/O): The driver of a fire service vehicle. The A/O is proficient in the maintenance and operation of all equipment on the vehicle, including safe and effective operation of the fire pump during emergency response.

Awareness: A training level designation indicating the learner has completed and passed a course testing the knowledge of the learner in a given subject, but not operational skills.

Certification: Approval of an application by the State of Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), or by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), or by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

Collapse zone: Varies according to incident characteristics, but may be generalized as at least two times the height of a structure or other large object involved in fire. Collapse zone for **power lines** may be generalized as at least twice the distance between power line support poles, irrespective of height.

Company: A group of members assembled at the scene that operate under direct supervision and are trained and equipped to perform assigned tasks.

Company officer: The leader of a company, who may be under either direct or general supervision.

Department: The administrative and operational organization of the Mosier Fire District, providing fire suppression, emergency medical services, and related activities to the public.

Fire fighter I: A person who has been certified by DPSST to have demonstrated the requisite knowledge and skills, as set in the NFPA Fire Fighter I task book, to function as an integral member of a structural fire-fighting team under direct supervision in hazardous conditions.

Fire fighter II: A person who has been certified by DPSST to have demonstrated the requisite knowledge and skills, as set in the NFPA Fire Fighter II task book, to function under general supervision.

IDLH: An environment which poses an immediate danger to life and health.

Incident Command System (ICS): The system which defines roles and responsibilities to be assumed by responders, and which establishes the standard operating procedures to be used in the management and direction of emergency incidents and other activities.

Member: A person involved in performing the duties and responsibilities of the Department, under the auspices of the Mosier Fire District.

NIMS: National Incident Management System, developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides a systematic, proactive approach to guide departments and agencies at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work seamlessly to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of

cause, size, location, or complexity, in order to reduce the loss of life and property and harm to the environment.

Procedure: The series of actions, conducted in an approved manner and sequence, designed to achieve an intended outcome.

Probationary: A job title designation indicating acceptance by the Fire Chief of partial or incomplete requirements for provision of emergency services, with permission to perform limited duties under direct supervision on an emergency scene.

Responder: A member who meets minimum requirements to answer an emergency call or other alarm.

Shall: Indicates a mandatory requirement.

Supervision (direct): A member working under the step-by-step instruction of, and in the presence of, a supervisor.

Supervision (general): A member working under broad guidance from, and in communication with, a supervisor.

Support: A job title designation indicating a level of training and/or equipment, or fitness for duty, below the requirement for provision of fire suppression and emergency medical services. Driving tender may be considered support, so long as the member is qualified to drive that vehicle.

Task force: Two or more units, typically of different types, in communication with each other and assigned to a common task, coordinating their activities, and supporting each others' safety.

Unit/Team: One or more members who have been assigned a common task and are in communication with each other, coordinate their activities, and support each others' safety.

POLICY

The policy of Mosier Fire District is that all responders shall meet minimum requirements for training and certification, and shall be approved by the Fire Chief to answer emergency calls or other alarms.

Members who do not meet minimum requirements for training and certification may at the discretion of the Fire Chief be classed as probationary responders, who may answer emergency calls or other alarms and perform limited duties on emergency scenes, under direct supervision. Probationary responders shall not respond to an emergency scene unless qualified personnel are on scene.

Minors under the age of 18 may train with the Department under the status of “student”, but shall not be allowed to answer emergency calls or other alarms.

Student members and members who respond to emergency scenes and do not meet qualifications to provide emergency services may provide support services to an emergency operation, outside the emergency scene and in coordination with Department incident command.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate and up-to-date record of qualifications for each member of the Department. This record shall be publicly available.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for maintaining standards for qualification.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for developing and implementing a training program to facilitate members meeting qualification requirements.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for providing protective clothing and equipment sufficient to protect each responder from hazards associated with the provision of emergency services at the responder's level of qualification.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for annual review and evaluation of each responder to determine his or her ability to perform duties that might be assigned.

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for providing a basic occupational physical exam (limited to assessment by a licensed physician as to fitness for duty) upon acceptance for each member, made by a healthcare provider who shall report a recommendation as to fitness for duty to the Fire Chief.

On an ongoing basis, each responder shall be responsible for attesting to having a clean bill of health, and shall promptly inform the Fire Chief of changes to his or her own health. Responders may be required by the Fire Chief to consent to, and undergo, a follow-up physical exam at Department expense (unless made at responder's expense during the course of his/her personal healthcare plan), made by a healthcare provider who shall report a recommendation as to fitness for duty to the Fire Chief.

Each responder shall be responsible for documenting his or her own training and certifications. Responders shall be responsible for informing the Chief of changes to their own qualifications promptly.

PROCEDURES

All responders:

- Shall be a minimum of 18 (eighteen) years old.
- Shall reside in the Mosier Fire District or in lands protected by a mutual aid partner of the Mosier Fire District.
- Shall provide his or her own transportation and vehicle liability insurance..
- Shall understand and abide by the policies and procedures of the Mosier Fire District.
- Shall have a valid drivers license.
- Shall consent to a background check, a driving record check, and physical examination.
- Shall not have been convicted of any felony, or any crime that is related to emergency services.
 - **Exception:** At the discretion of the Fire Chief, persons who do not qualify under this requirement may attain probationary status.

- Shall maintain current certification in CPR/AED and first aid, as determined by either the American Heart Association (preferred) or the American Red Cross.
- Shall complete and pass an accredited course in hazardous materials (HAZMAT) awareness, and maintain annual accredited refresher courses in HAZMAT awareness.
 - **Exception:** Probationary responders who have not completed HAZMAT awareness may respond to emergencies if under direct supervision of a responder who has completed and passed HAZMAT awareness.
- Shall complete and pass an accredited course in infection control.
- Shall complete and pass an accredited course in NIMS Awareness Training (IS-700a), and the introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS-100, or IS-100b).

Apparatus operator qualifications:

- **Probationary apparatus operator:**
 - Shall have completed the Basic Orientation component of the Department A/O task book, and/or received probationary approval from the Fire Chief to answer emergency calls and other alarms in a specific fire service vehicle.
 - Shall have attended and participated in a minimum of six Department-wide training drills during which apparatus are used.
 - Shall be permitted to operate a specific fire service vehicle on a fire ground only under direct supervision. The probationary A/O may, at the discretion of the Fire Chief, operate a specific apparatus in training and en route to a fire ground not in the presence of a supervisor, but under clear step-by-step instruction and in immediate communication with a supervisor.
- **Apparatus operator:**
 - Shall be currently certified as a Fire Apparatus Diver/Operator.
 - Shall be currently certified at minimum as Fire Fighter I.
 - Shall complete the Department A/O task book at least once every two years for each apparatus s/he intends to drive.
 - Shall be approved by the Fire Chief as A/O and permitted to operate specific fire service vehicles under general supervision.

Company officers:

- Shall have completed the Department company officer task book, and/or received probationary approval from the Fire Chief to lead company operations.
- Shall complete and pass an accredited course in Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (ICS-200, or IS-200b).

Company officer promotion:

- Candidates for promotion from Lieutenant to Captain:
 - Shall first qualify as a company officer.
 - Shall be currently certified at a minimum as Fire Fighter I.
 - Shall complete and pass an accredited course for Engine Boss/initial attack leader (S-200) and prerequisites.
 - Shall complete the Department promotion task book and exam, emphasizing management of resources and ability to assume Incident Command as needed.
 - Shall receive approval from the Fire Chief as Captain.

Emergency medical responder qualifications:

- All members who meet requirements to answer emergency calls and other alarms shall be permitted to provide emergency medical services (EMS), within the scope of their practice, under direct supervision.
 - **Exception:** In cases of cardiac arrest, all members shall be permitted to provide EMS, within the scope of their practice, under standing order.

Emergency medical technicians:

- Shall be currently certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), EMT-Basic (EMT-B), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), EMT-Advanced (EMT-A), or Paramedic (EMT-P).
- Shall have completed a minimum of six Department-wide training drills on any subject.
- Shall have the approval of the Fire Chief to answer emergency calls and other alarms under general supervision or standing order, within the scope of practice of his/her certification level, and in accordance with protocols and procedures established for Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Fire fighter qualifications:

- **Probationary structural fire fighters:**
 - Shall have completed, at a minimum, the Basic Orientation component of the Department structural task book, and received probationary approval from the Fire Chief to respond on structure fires.
 - Shall have attended and participated in a minimum of six Department-wide training drills.
 - Shall not be permitted in IDLH environments, or within fifty (50) feet of a collapse zone, or on a HAZMAT scene absent accredited awareness/ops training.
 - Shall not be permitted to use SCBA on a fire ground unless fit-tested and approved through the Department respiratory medical evaluation, and approved by the Fire Chief.
- **Structural fire fighters under direct supervision in hazardous conditions:**
 - Shall be currently certified Fire Fighter I.
 - Shall complete and pass fit testing at least annually, and the Department respiratory medical evaluation.
 - Shall have attended and participated in a minimum of six Department-wide training drills involving Fire Fighter I knowledge and skills.
 - Shall have completed the Department structural task book at least once every two years.
- **Structural fire fighters under general supervision in hazardous conditions:**
 - Shall be currently certified Fire Fighter II.
 - Shall complete and pass fit testing at least annually, and the Department respiratory medical evaluation.
 - Shall have attended and participated in a minimum of six Department-wide training drills involving Fire Fighter II knowledge and skills.
 - Shall have completed the Department structural task book at least once every two years.

- **Wildland / interface fire fighters:**
 - Shall complete and pass accredited courses in entry level wildland fire fighting skills (S-130), standards for survival (S-132), wildland fire behavior (S-190), and human factors in the wildland fire service (L-180).
 - Shall complete and pass an annual fireline safety refresher (RT-130).
 - Shall have attended and participated in a minimum of six Department-wide training drills.
 - Shall have completed the Department wildland task book at least once every two years, and/or received probationary approval from the Fire Chief to respond on wildland / interface incidents.

[RESERVED] for Incident management personnel qualifications in the following positions:

- [Incident commander
- [Safety officer
- [Public information officer
- [Liaison officer
- [Operations section chief
- [Staging area manager
- [Strike team/task force leader
- [Planning section chief
- [Medical unit leader
- [Support branch director]

Instructor qualifications:

- Accredited instruction shall be made by certified instructors or by means authorized by DPSST.
- Non-accredited instruction may be made by anyone authorized by the Fire Chief.

APPENDIX

[RESERVED]