

## **08-02 NOVA SCOTIA FIRE SERVICE – TRAINING – ORIENTATION LEVEL (PHASE 1)**

### **1. PREAMBLE**

Training in any profession is important; training in the Fire Service is no exception. Training before any new recruit attends an emergency response is critical. We all have a responsibility to ensure that we operate in safe manner, and having the basic knowledge before being put in any potential dangerous situation is a must. This Phase 1 document covers the Orientation Level. It is intended primarily for recruits, before they start further training, but is also a good tool to educate existing members of the fire service who may not have gone over this information for several years. Firefighters that have been on leave of absence for 6 months or more should also go through this level of training to refresh their skills and get updated on any changes in policies and procedures that have happened during their absence. There will be two further documents; Phase 2 – Defensive Attack (Exterior work, knowledge and skills only in task assigned) and Phase 3 Offensive Attack (Interior search and rescue, highest level of knowledge and skills).

### **2. PURPOSE**

This standard provides the learning objectives to ensure new recruits have the ***minimum knowledge*** before they be permitted to respond to an emergency situation. A detailed supplement will follow at a later date with an associated training package.

### **3. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

#### **WCB**

WCB and Private Insurance can offer very different benefits and may vary from company to company. The letters 'WCB' can be replaced with 'Private Insurance Company'.

The firefighter shall be able to;

1. Describe the death benefits available under WCB.
2. Describe the activities that are covered and not covered under WCB.
3. Describe when to report a workplace injury.
4. Describe the process of reporting an injury.
5. Describe 'the right to know', 'the right to refuse', and 'the right to participate'.

**Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) / Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) / Hazmat.**

The firefighter shall be able to;

1. Describe what WHMIS is.
2. Identify the eight WHMIS symbols and what they are used for.
3. Describe a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and what they are used for.
4. Describe what CANUTEC is, how and when to contact them, and explain what the Emergency Response Guide Handbook looks like and where it can be found in your organization.

**Occupation Health and Safety (OH&S)**

The firefighter shall be able to;

1. Describe the role of OH&S for volunteer firefighters.
2. Describe the Municipality's role as employer as it relates to the OH&S of a volunteer firefighter.
3. Orientation should be based on the Nova Scotia Fire Service Occupational Health & Safety Reference Guide which is cross-referenced with OH&S & NFPA 1500.

**Department Command Structure**

The firefighter shall be able to;

1. Describe the benefits of a Command Structure
2. Describe the Command Structure in your own fire department.
3. Describe the benefits of an accountability system.

**Safety on Scene**

1. Explain why you should perform only those tasks for which you have been trained.
2. Explain fire behavior as it relates to fire ground safety.
3. Identify safety issues on and around the apparatus.
4. Identify who your department's Safety Officer is and how to identify them.
5. Identify facts about personal safety in the fire station.
6. Explain safe procedures for using station shop hand tools and power tools, especially power saws.
7. Identify firefighting hazards related to building construction.
8. Identify forcible entry tool safety rules.
9. Identify safe procedures for breaking glass.
10. Explain ladder safety rules.
11. Explain OH&S regulations for working at heights.

12. Identify life safety hazards that can affect firefighters and rescue workers in confined spaces (and thoroughly define confined spaces).
13. Identify safe guidelines for laying hose.
14. Identify safe practices for electrical emergencies.
15. Explain the Traffic Management Guidelines for Emergency Scenes.
16. Provide guidelines for the safe control and safety of pedestrians and bystanders.
17. Identify the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act & Regulations as they relate to both personal and emergency vehicle operation.
18. Identify hazards at the scene of an incident, including overhead obstructions.
19. Identify how electricity & gas affect scene safety.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The firefighter shall be able to;

1. Explain the importance of wearing the appropriate PPE for various incidents and how and where to best store it for prompt and safe response to various types of emergency and to preserve its effectiveness.
2. Explain why the firefighter should not engage in emergency and rescue operations unless they are fully and appropriately attired for the task they are assigned.
3. Explain the importance of maintenance and inspection of their PPE (i.e. washing, inspection, repair, and annual certification).
4. Explain the dangers associated with carrying personal bunker gear in personal vehicle, and the precautions that should be taken.
5. Identify the critical areas to protect (i.e. eyes, hands, feet, respiration, core temperature, etc) during emergency responses.

### **General Items**

The firefighter shall be able to:

1. Explain where the funding comes from for the fire department.
2. Identify where to find department policies, procedures, and Bylaws and explain the differences between and the applications of these.
3. Explain department policy for use of department equipment for personal use.
4. Explain the Mutual Aid system in your area, how it is activated, and how it works.
5. Identify the different radio systems, learn the basic call sign structure, and learn basic radio etiquette before using a two-way radio.

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