

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



**North Carolina
Association of Fire Chiefs
2015**

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Background	3
Types of Awards	4
<i>(Awards)</i>	
Medal of Valor	5
Firefighter Red Heart Award	6
Fire Chief of The Year Award (NCAFC)	7
Distinguished Service Award	8
Lifesaving Award	9
Meritorious Unit Citation	10
Community Service Award	11
Officer/Firefighter of the Year Award	12
Educational Achievement Award	13
<i>(Service Ribbons)</i>	
Longevity Service	15
Honor Guard	15
USAR	16
Hazmat	16
Water Rescue	17
Tactical Medical Responder	17
<i>(Certification Ribbons)</i>	
Chief Fire Officer Designation	19
Executive Fire Officer	19
NC Emergency Mgt. Coordinator	20
NC Fire Officer	20
NC Advanced Firefighter(NCSFA)	21
NC Firefighter	21
NC Driver/Operator	22
NC Emergency Medical Technician	22
NC Fire Instructor	23
NC Fire Inspector	23
NC Fire Investigator	24
NC Fire Life Safety Educator	24
Recommended Order of Wear	25

Background

In 2009, The NCAFC Executive Board recognized that there was a lot of interest in having a *voluntary* reference for common/standardized recognitions/awards in the fire service of our state. Some departments have had programs for years and other departments were preparing to implement programs.

The Executive Board also recognized that there is professional value in having recognizable awards and recognitions throughout the fire service of our state.

It was proposed that only award types and designs would be addressed – such as service/certification ribbons, lifesaving awards, etc. For example, although a certain design might be recommended for a lifesaving award, the local department would decide their criteria for issuing that award to their members.

However, the program would recommend criteria for consideration for local departments to consider for each award.

Departments that do not have recognition/award programs can adopt this program, or departments that already have recognition/award programs may migrate to this program or adopt parts of it as they deem appropriate for their department.

For example, this program has a recommended ribbon design for a firefighter who completes their NC Firefighter II certification, which could be used by any department.

The original program was released in 2010, updated in 2012, 2014 and 2015.

Award Types

Three types of awards/recognitions are identified in the NCAFC program:

Awards: recognitions of a special effort or service that warrants special recognition above normal duties or assignments.

Service Ribbons: recognitions of various special service provided by a member in regular service to a department or their community.

Certification Ribbons: recognitions of achievement or completion of various state or national training and education programs by a department member.

Proposed Awards/Recognitions

TYPE	NUMBER
Awards	9
Service Ribbons	6
Certification Ribbons	12

Each award/recognition is identified on the following pages. For ribbon color patterns, a Graco Industries style number is listed as a reference.

<https://www.gracoind.com/Wholesale/default.aspx>

Medal of Valor

MEDAL OF VALOR

The highest medal that can be achieved.



0497

Red: Courage, White: Purity, Blue: Truth/Trust

EXAMPLE OF USE:

The Medal of Valor may be awarded to a member who performs a personal act in a courageous manner in the protection of life or lives while engaged in the mitigation of a fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials incident or other type of response that have resulted in serious bodily harm or death

Firefighter Red Heart Award

FIRE FIGHTER RED HEART AWARD

- Second highest award that can be achieved



Red: Courage, Gold: Loyalty

EXAMPLE OF USE :

The Red Heart may be awarded to any member who is injured while engaged in the mediation of a fire, medical emergency, rescue, hazardous materials incident or training. The injury could not be self inflicted or by negligence, and all protective equipment and safety procedure must have been in use. The Red Heart may be awarded posthumously to the family of a member who dies of injuries obtained, or while engaged in the same criteria listed above.

Fire Chief of the Year Award (NC)

FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR AWARD

Limited Special Recognition



0363

Red: Courage, White: Purity, Blue: Truth/Trust

EXAMPLE OF USE :

The Fire Chief of the Year Award is only awarded by the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, and may be awarded to volunteer or career fire chiefs. Criteria for award is determined by the NCAFC.

Distinguished Service Award

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Third highest award that could be achieved



0684

Blue: Trust, Yellow: Honor, White: Purity, Red: Courage, Black: Extreme

EXAMPLE OF USE:

Distinguished Service Award: Any member who, on or off duty, performs an act (s) above and beyond the call of duty under MODERATE personal risk that involves bravery and/or a high degree of initiative and/or capability. It must be worthy of recognition that promotes good will, and reflects highly on the Fire Department

Lifesaving Award

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Fourth highest award that could be achieved



0079



Yellow: Honor, Green: Honesty, Blue: Trust, White: Purity, Red: Courage
A bronze number will be added for each additional award received.

EXAMPLE OF USE:

Any member or company who is actually involved in the successful resuscitation of a patient, who was without pulse and respiration. The patient was resuscitated in the field and was either admitted to the hospital or released from medical care. The term resuscitation refers to re-establishing the patient pulse.

Meritorious Unit Citation

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Fifth highest award



1163

- Since each Citation is based on a single major event, This ribbon will have either Gold or Orange ends and a color scheme that will be selected by the Award and Recognition committee that will be suitable for the event.

EXAMPLE OF USE :

Recognition of the entire company for outstanding company level operations on a major incident of great magnitude far above any normal emergency operations that was primarily dependant on teamwork and cooperation. A major incident is defined as a significant emergency event that involves a serious threat to life/property and requires call back of personnel. Only one (1) unit citation is authorized for each major incident. This must be submitted by a member of the command staff.

Community Service Award

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sixth award



0077

White: Purity, Green: Honesty



A Bronze oak leaf will be added for additional awards up to three

A Silver oak leaf will be added for four up to six

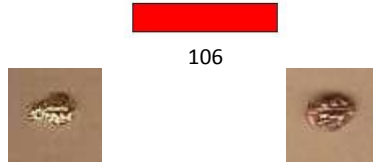
A Gold oak leaf will be added for seven up to nine

EXAMPLE OF USE:

Recognition of any member nominated for an outstanding contribution to his/her community on or off duty, significantly above what is expected for an involved member of the community. This award is to be given to any Department member that has demonstrated outstanding service for the Department or community beyond the normal responsibility of the position. Any member may be nominated for this award by any other member of the Department or by a private citizen

Officer/Firefighter of the Year Award

OFFICER/FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Gold oak leaf for Fire Officer of the year, Bronze oak leaf for firefighter of the year

EXAMPLE OF USE:

This award is given to an Officer/Firefighter that has performed above and beyond the normal responsibility of the position. Any member of this department or a private citizen may nominate any department officer (8 hr or shift) for this award. Any firefighter (below the rank of captain) of the department that has at least 1 (one) year of service may be nominated for this award by any member of the department or by a private citizen.

Educational Achievement Award

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RIBBON



0600

Gray: Intelligence, Purple: Wisdom



A bronze lamp of knowledge for an associate degree

A silver lamp of knowledge for a bachelor degree

A gold lamp of knowledge for a master degree

SERVICE RIBBONS

Longevity Service

LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD



0031


Blue: Truth/Trust, White: Purity, Red: Courage, Gold: Loyalty

	ONE BRONZE STAR FOR EVERY 5 YEARS
	ONE SILVER STAR FOR EVERY 10 YEARS
	ONE GOLD STAR FOR 30 YEARS

EXAMPLE:  TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Honor Guard

HONOR GUARD



1183

Black: Solemn, White: Purity, Red: Courage


Service Stars will be added for every two years served on the Honor Guard

Bronze Star	2 years
Silver Star	4 years
Gold Star	6 years

EXAMPLE OF USE:
This ribbon is given to those Firefighters who have served on the Honor Guard for two (2) years successfully.

USAR

USAR
URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE



0338

Red: Courage, White: Purity, Blue: Truth/Trust, Orange: Strength/Endurance

EXAMPLE OF USE:
USAR service ribbon: This ribbon is given to those Firefighters who have served on the USAR Team for two (2) years successfully.

Hazmat

HAZMAT




0572

These are the colors of the 704 placard

EXAMPLE OF USE:
Hazmat service ribbon: This ribbon is given to those Firefighters who have served on the Hazmat Team for two (2) years successfully.

Water Rescue

Water Rescue



1182


Red: Courage, Blue: Water, Truth/Trust, Orange: Strength/Endurance

EXAMPLE OF USE:
Water Rescue service ribbon: This ribbon is given to those Firefighters who have served on the Water Rescue Team for two (2) years successfully.

Tactical Medical Responder


TMR

Tactical Medical Responder



1072

Blue: Truth/Trust, Gold: Loyalty, Black: Extreme



Silver star will be added for CONTOMS certification

EXAMPLE OF USE:
TMR service ribbon: This ribbon is given to those Firefighters who have served on the TMR Team for two (2) years successfully.

CERTIFICATION RIBBONS

- Certification ribbons will be awarded for the following state and or national certifications

Chief Fire Officer Designation

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER DESIGNATION
Center for Public Safety Excellence
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER DESIGNATION

Awarded: Prior to 2010 **After 2010**

Blue: Truth/Trust, Yellow: Honor, Purple: Wisdom,
Red: Courage, Green: Honesty, White: Purity

Executive Fire Officer


EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER DESIGNATION
National Fire Academy
Society of Executive Fire Officers



Red: Courage, White: Purity Blue: Truth/Trust, Yellow: Honor

NC Emergency Mgt. Coordinator

**NC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**




0342

Blue: Truth/Trust, Green: Honesty, Purple: Wisdom,
Gold: Loyalty, Yellow: Honor, White: Purity,
Red: Courage, Gray: Intelligence


NC Fire Officer

NC FIRE OFFICER
STATE CERTIFIED



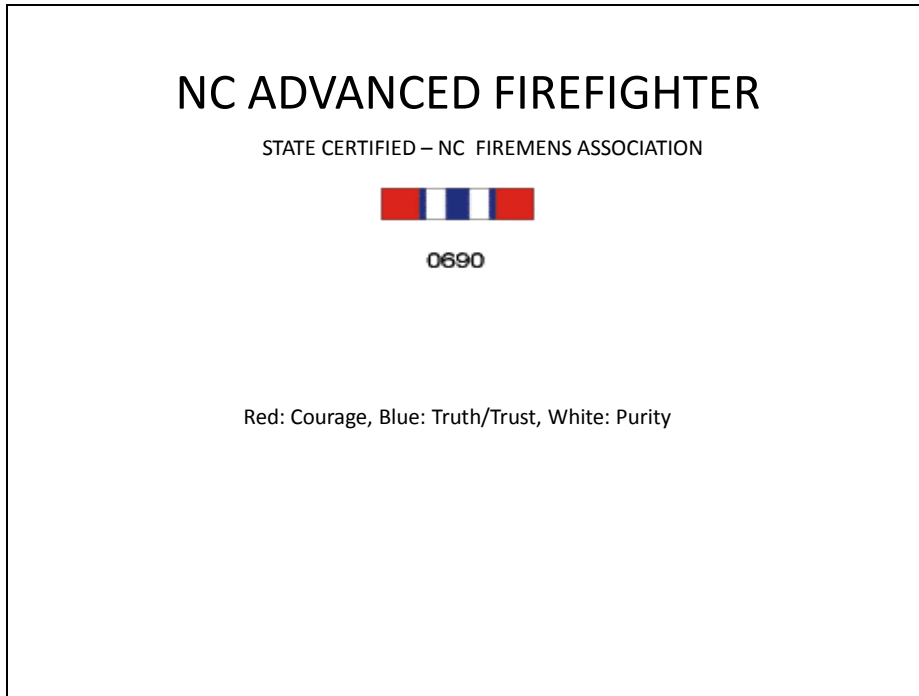
1031

Gray: Intelligence, Blue: Truth/Trust, Red: Courage

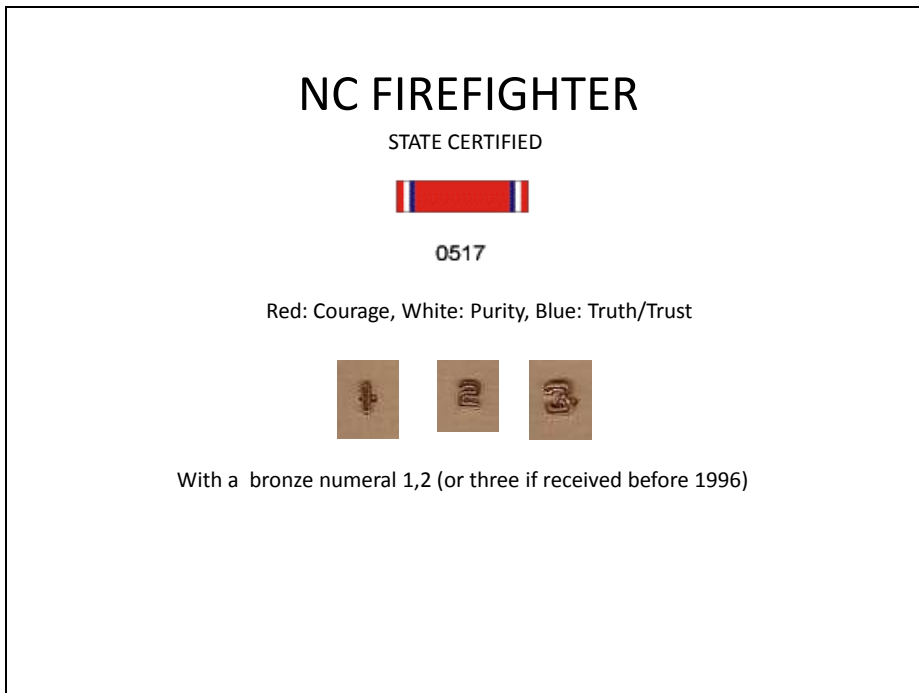


A bronze number will be added for the level achieved



NC Advanced Firefighter (NCSFA)







NC Firefighter



NC Driver/Operator


NC DRIVER OPERATOR (D/O AERIAL)
STATE CERTIFIED

1083
Blue: Truth/Trust, White: Purity, Yellow: Honor

A Bronze number 2 will be added for D/O AERIAL

NC Emergency Medical Technician

NC EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
STATE CERTIFIED

1143
Red: Courage, Lt Blue EMS, Gray: Intelligence

Bronze Hour Glass EMT-B, Silver Hour Glass EMT-I, Gold Hour Glass EMT-P
The hour glass represents that time is of essence


NC Fire Instructor


NC FIRE INSTRUCTOR



1059


Blue: Truth/Trust, Green: Honesty, Purple: Wisdom

 Bronze Number 2 for level two

 Bronze Number 3 for level Three




NC Fire Inspector

NC FIRE INSPECTOR



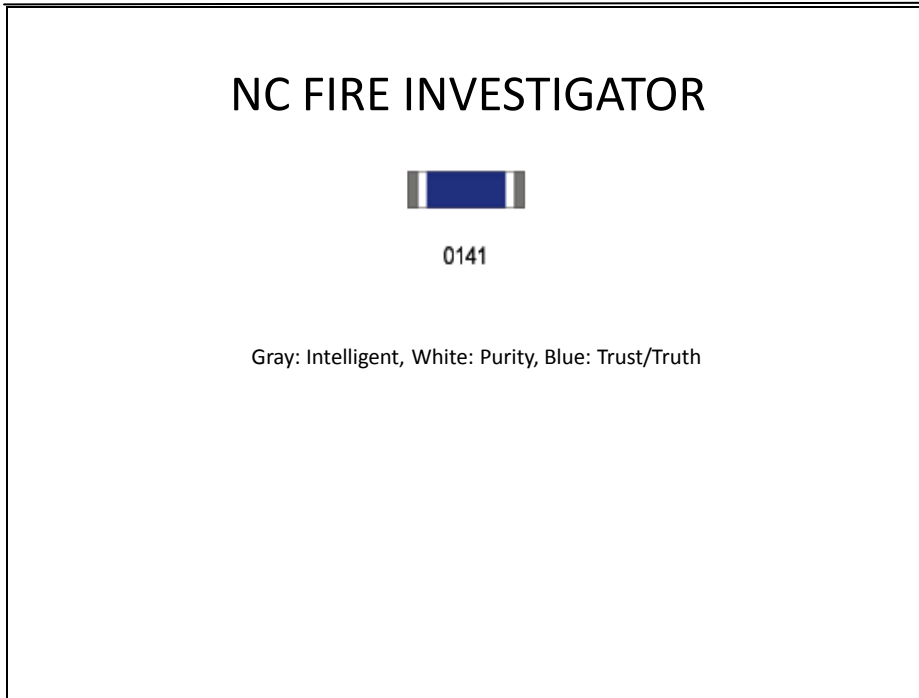
1123

Gold: Loyalty, Green: Honesty, White: Purity, Blue: Truth/Trust

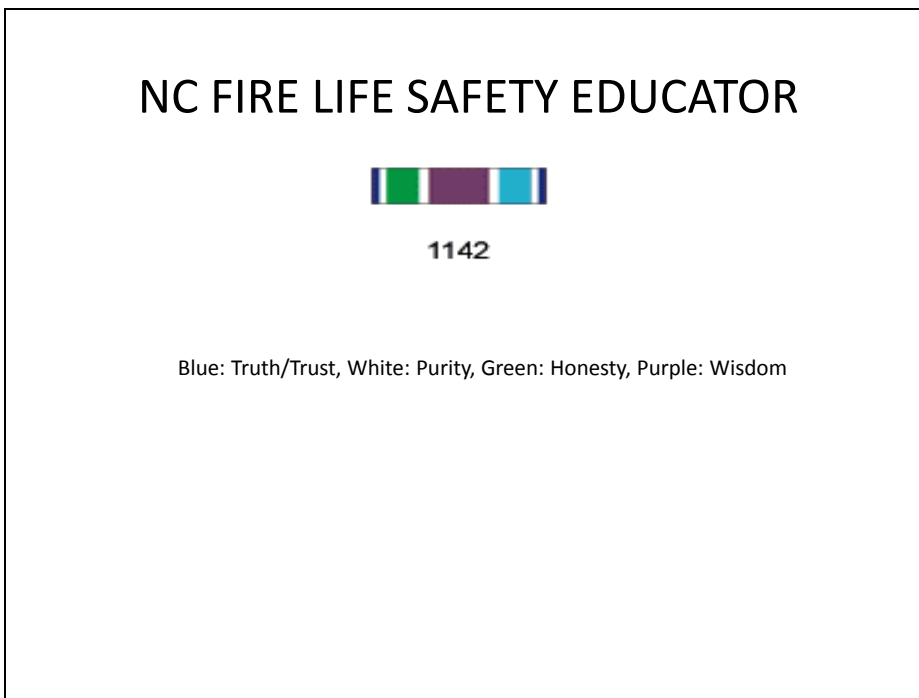
  

Bronze number will be added for each level earned

NC Fire Investigator



NC Fire Life Safety Educator



Recommended Order of Wear

Ribbons will be worn according to the Department's uniform SOG.

It is recommended that this program apply to Class A (formal) uniforms only.

The highest awarded ribbon should be on the top row, closest to the heart. Other awards and ribbons should follow (as listed in this program), across and down, with three/four per row, depending on uniform type.

Where can awards and ribbons be purchased from? Graco Industries

<https://www.gracoind.com/Wholesale/default.aspx>