



New Castle County Fire Service Awards and Recognition Program



Purpose

To establish a program to recognize valorous and/or meritorious service by a volunteer or paid staff member of the New Castle County Fire and EMS service.

Reporting and Nominating

All Fire / Rescue and EMS incidents of outstanding or conspicuous service shall be reported in writing to the New Castle County Chief's Association Secretary to be forwarded to the Medal Day Committee Chair Person who will review and verify the event or events and then present the nominations to the entire committee. No self-nominations will be accepted. All personnel (career and volunteer) will use the same nomination form for recommending recognition of outstanding or conspicuous service. This nomination shall include all pertinent facts surrounding the incident (i.e. name or names of those involved, witnesses to the event, time, place, and deeds performed). Any Member of the Fire and EMS service shall be able to write a recommendation for awards to the committee; however it is recommended that the nomination be presented to the local Fire Chief prior to submitting the nomination. However approval of the local Fire Chief is not required. Nominations shall be submitted no later than January 15th for any events during the preceding year. However it is recommended that nominations are submitted as soon as possible following the event and its review/investigation process to ensure that an event or events are not overlooked when reflecting on an entire year in review.

Medal Day Committee

The committee shall consist of: (9) Members

A chairperson appointed by the New Castle County Fire Chief Association President

New Castle County Public Safety Director or their designee

The immediate Past President of the New Castle County Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association

The immediate Past President of the New Castle County Volunteer Firefighters Association

The current President of Local 4417, International Association of Fire Fighters or their designee

The current President of Local 1590, International Association of Fire Fighters or their designee

Two (2) members at large chosen by the President of the New Castle County Volunteer Firefighters Association

One (1) member at large chosen by the President of the New Castle County Volunteer Fire Chiefs Association

The Awards and Commendations Committee shall meet and review at least annually a minimum of 60 Days Prior to the Medal Day Ceremony to review the recommended actions and events from the selection year. The Committee shall review and verify each event and evaluate the circumstances of the meritorious service. The committee is not selecting a winner, but rather recognizing service and actions. Careful evaluation may result in certain awards not being presented in a calendar year. All awards will be certified, documented and archived so that the roll call of merit can be maintained for the history of the service. Some awards might not be given out every year if there is not an event that fits the criteria outlined below under awards

Awards

The Fire and EMS Medal Day Committee shall recommend that each individual act be assigned one of the following awards:

- The Medal for Valor:** Highest award in recognition of an act involving extreme personal risk and the highest degree of judgment, zeal, and ingenuity that is clearly above and beyond the call of duty. Only one event yearly is eligible for the Gold Medal except in extenuating circumstances.
- Silver Medal for Valor:** For cases involving great (but not extreme) personal risk, and/or great judgment, zeal, or ingenuity
- Bronze Medal for Valor:** For cases in recognition of acts involving unusual personal risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual job responsibilities. Bronze medals may also be awarded to person or persons who demonstrate unusual judgement, zeal, or ingenuity during an emergency situation when such act is beyond that normally expected in the performance of duty
- Meritorious Service Award:** For cases involving personal risk or unusual duties of a Department member or citizen, and/or a degree of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally required of a Department member or citizen.
- Citizen Recognition Award:** Intended to recognize citizens who perform an action worthy of recognition from the fire service. This nomination may be considered for valor or lifesaving as well.
- Life Saving Award:** Recognize any member of the New Castle County Fire Service who above and beyond the normal duties and responsibilities is instrumental in saving a human life without encountering personal risk.
- Firefighter of the Year:** Awarded to the non-officer firefighter that provided outstanding service and dedication in providing Fire/Rescue/EMS services to the residents within New Castle County.
- Fire Officer of the Year:** Awarded to the officer (Lieutenant thru Chief) that provided outstanding service and dedication in providing Fire/Rescue/EMS services to the residents within New Castle County.

EMS Professional of the Year:

For Contributions by an individual to the community as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or Paramedic (EMT-P). For dedication, responsibility, professional behavior, ingenuity, special skill or insight in the EMS environment.

With the exception of the yearly awards (FF, Fire Officer, Administrative Member) some of these awards may not be given every year. The committee must do their due-diligence when reviewing the nominations. If an event is not worthy of an award, then no award shall be given. Any awards given just because we feel the need to give an award out takes away from those award winners that truly earned it through self-sacrifice, honor, dedication, and service.