

# Lincoln County Fire and Rescue Association

## Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Effective Date: January 20, 2006    Modified Date: May 1, 2012

Number: 100

Title: Rank Identification

**Purpose:** To assist fire and rescue department personnel and assisting agencies with a quick reference method of identifying the skill and authority level of members who are assisting on an emergency scene. This is to increase scene safety and proper delegation of assignments and tasks.

**Method:** Shall be a systematic color-coding system for rank and skill level.

### Fire Departments:

- Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs: All white helmet and / or white shields if equipped.
- Staff Officers: Minimum of a distinguishable red shield. Each department may elect to use different helmet colors other than black to distinguish from ranks such as Captain or Lieutenant.
- Firefighter: All black helmet / natural leather and shield. A skilled firefighter is one that has completed at a minimum the *current training courses as specified* by NC Firefighter I. Changes occur occasionally with this standard and each department is expected to be aware of the training status of its members.
- Probationary Firefighter: Shall wear either a green helmet or a helmet with distinguishable green markings until the completion of the current NC Firefighter I core courses. Departments shall not issue personal SCBA mask for these members to reduce the chance of entry into a dangerous environment.

### Rescue Departments:

- Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs: All white helmet and shields if equipped.
- Staff Officers: Minimum of a distinguishable white shield. Each department may elect to use different helmet colors other than blue to distinguish from ranks such as Captain or Lieutenant.
- Rescue Member: All blue helmet and black shield if equipped.
- Probationary Member: Shall wear a green helmet or a helmet with distinguishable green markings until the completion of basic courses in safety, extrication, bloodborne pathogens and patient care have been completed as monitored by that department.

Special Note: It is assumed by this standard that any member filling an officer's rank has completed the minimum requirements for the members that they are expected to manage. *SOG 108 Officer Training Standards*

Clarification: The term probationary is referring to the skill level of the member, not any outstanding disciplinary issues.