

46.0 Probationary Member Identification:

With different companies working together so frequently at incidents, it is not uncommon to have an officer overseeing and assigning tasks to members from another company. A problem that can arise from this is the supervising officer may not know the capabilities and experience level of the firefighter that he / she is assigning tasks to. Because the successful completion of the task may depend upon the capabilities of the firefighter, the Chiefs have opted to use a visual indicator on the firefighter's helmet to indicate if he / she is a member that has not had significant training in some complex tasks and might require more supervision than others.

The Chiefs will call these firefighters PROBATIONARY firefighters. The Chiefs have agreed to use a helmet shield that is wholly or partly Orange in color and has the word PROBATIONARY or a capital letter "P" on the helmet shield. The shield might also include the name of the firefighter's fire company / department. They may also use helmet "rockers" that say "PROBATIONARY" in place of or in addition to the helmet shield. The idea is to allow officers to quickly and easily identify a probationary firefighter that he / she might be assigning a task.

This standardized guideline does not give a strict definition for a probationary firefighter. It may or may not be based strictly on time as a member. It will be left to the Chief of the member's company / department to determine when a firefighter receives this designation or when the designation can be removed.

This designation is in no way intended to be derogatory to a member but to help assure that the member's safety is not compromised by being put into a complex situation that they are not prepared for as well as to help officers assign the most qualified personnel into roles that will help to assure a successful outcome for the customers we are serving.

